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**DRAFT**

**PROTOCOL ON STATISTICS**

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# PREAMBLE

**WE**, the Heads of State or Government of:

The Republic of Angola

The Republic of Botswana

The Union of Comoros

The Democratic Republic of Congo

The Kingdom of Eswatini

The Kingdom of Lesotho

The Republic of Madagascar

The Republic of Malawi

The Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mozambique

The Republic of Namibia

The Republic of Seychelles

The Republic of South Africa

The United Republic of Tanzania

The Republic of Zambia

The Republic of Zimbabwe

**REALISING** that Article 14 1(j) of the Treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community (SADC) places collation and dissemination of information and maintenance of a reliable database as one of the principle areas of responsibility of the SADC Secretariat;

**NOTING** that Article 22 of the Treaty expressly provides for the conclusion of Protocols as may be necessary in each area of cooperation within the Community;

**REALISING** that Statistics are crucial for monitoring progress of socio- economic development, with creation of wealth and employment, reduction of poverty and setting them on a sustainable growth path while achieving a high degree of harmonization and rationalization to enable pooling of resources for collective self-reliance in order to improve standards of living;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) emphasizes Statistics as an important crosscutting issue as one of the priority intervention areas to make available relevant, timely, quality and harmonized statistical information for monitoring observance of macroeconomic convergence criteria and planning, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SADC programmes and protocols;

**RECALLING** that the RISDP recognizes the absence of a regional statistical legal framework as a major constraint with respect to the development of statistics in the region;

**CONVINCED** that the SADC Regional Strategy for Development of Statistics (RSDS) shall be the main guiding framework for regional statistical development in SADC to support regional integration with reliable harmonized regional statistical indicators for evidence based-decisions making;

**RECALLING** the African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA), as the guiding frameworks to achieve the vision of the African Statistical System to generate timely, reliable, and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration for Africa, as embedded in Agenda 2063;

**AWARE** of the United Nations General Assembly’s resolution 68/261 of 29 January 2014, endorsing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics which lays down the values and principles that govern statistical work;

**MINDFUL** that the African Union Commission (AUC), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) aim to enable the African Statistical System (ASS) to generate timely, reliable, and harmonized statistical information, covering all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural integration for Africa;

**APPRECIATING** the effort and commitment of The Africa Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD) on the African Continent since 2006 on Demography, Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Economic Statistics;

**AWARE** of the AfDB African Information Highway as a support to AfDB High-Five Transformation Agenda, with overarching objectives of achieving inclusive growth and the transition to green growth, essential for transforming the lives of the African people;

**CONSIDERING** the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on the work of the Statistical Commission in 2018 for the Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**APPRECIATING** Member States commitment towards adherence to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Standards for data dissemination, namely the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), the Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS), the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the Special Data Dissemination Standard Plus (SDDS+) and the standards regarding the Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF);

**REFERRING** to the 2009 Dakar Declaration on the Development of Statistics under the flagship of PARIS 21 that provides partnership in statistics for an effective and efficient statistical system, essential elements for good governance;

**REFERRING ALSO** to the call for actions of the 2017 Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) to strengthen national statistical systems so that they can be most responsive to statistical needs to achieve the 2030 Agenda and beyond;

**RECALLING** the Dubai Declaration in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in October 2018 to increase financing for better data and statistics for sustainable development;

**RESOLVED** to put in place a common legal framework for statistics development in the SADC region;

**BEARING IN MIND** that the successful implementation of this Protocol is dependent upon effective implementation of Member States’ commitments under other SADC protocols, policies and strategies impacting on statistical development; and

**ACTING** on the recommendations of the Council of Ministers,

**HEREBY** agree as follows:

# ARTICLE 1

# DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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# DEFINITIONS

In this Protocol, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Advocacy” means sensitization of the public, government agencies, business sector, and other stakeholders of their roles in facilitating the production of quality official statistics;

“Council of Ministers” means the SADC Council of Ministers established by Article 9 (1) of the Treaty, as amended;

 “SADC Statistics Committee” means the Committee composed of State Parties’ representatives responsible for official statistics;

 “Community” has the meaning assigned to it under the Treaty, as amended;

 “Executive Secretary” means the Executive Secretary of SADC appointed under Articles 11 (2) and 15 of the Treaty, as amended;

 “Harmonisation” means making statistics more comparable, consistent and coherent thus improving efficiency and enabling users to draw more value from statistics;

 “Metadata” means a description of information that is needed to be able to use and interpret statistics, i.e. definitions of populations, objects, variables, methodology and quality;

 “Official Statistics” The body of statistical information produced and disseminated by Statistics Authorities and any other approved organisations in the National Statistical System and available publicly, freely or at relatively low cost;

 “Non-SADC State” means a state not a Member State of SADC;

 “Protocol” means this Protocol and any amendments thereto;

 “Region” means Southern Africa Development Community;

 “Regional infrastructure” means the basic physical and organisational structures and facilities e.g. roads, power supplies, buildings developed or identified as regional infrastructure by SADC;

 “SADC Tribunal” means the Tribunal established under Article 16 of the Treaty, as amended;

“Standard” means a set of rules used to standardise the way data are collected and statistics are produced;

“State Party” means a Member State that is a party to this Protocol;

“Statistics” means aggregated data required for production of organised statistical information;

 “Summit” means the Summit of Heads of State or Government established by Article 9 (1) of the Treaty, as amended;

 “Treaty” means the Treaty establishing the Southern African Development Community of 1992, as amended;

* 1. **ABREVIATIONS**

In this Protocol, unless the context otherwise requires-

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| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| “ACS” | means African Charter of Statistics; |
| “AfDB” | means African Development Bank |
| “AU” | means African Union |
| “AUC”  | means African Union Commission |
| “FAO”  | means Food and Agriculture Organisation. |
| “GDP” | means Gross Domestic Product |
| “ICT”  | means Information and Communications Technology. |
| “ILO”  | means International Labour Organisation. |
| “IMF”  | means International Monetary Fund. |
| “ITU”  | means International Telecommunications Union. |
| “NSDS”  | means National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. |
| “NSS”  | means National Statistical System. |
| “OECD”  | means Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. |
| “RSDS”  | means Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics. |
| “RSS”  | means Regional Statistical System. |
| “SADC”  | means the Southern African Development Community established by Article 2 of the Treaty, as amended; |
| “SDGs”  | means Sustainable Development Goals. |
| “SSC” | means SADC Statistics Committee |
| “UNFPOS” | means the United Nations Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics |
|  “UNSC”  | means United Nations Statistical Commission. |

# ARTICLE 2

# OBJECTIVES OF THE PROTOCOL

1. This Protocol defines the SADC Regional Statistical System (SRSS) as the partnership between and among the SADC Secretariat statistics authority, the SADC Statistics Unit and the National Statistical Systems (NSSs) of SADC Member States responsible in each Member State, for the development, production and dissemination of statistics.
2. This Protocol seeks to strengthen harmonization of compilation and dissemination of official statistics in State Parties in order to make them relevant, timely and accurate for the purpose of assessing and measuring progress of the Regional Integration Agenda of SADC;
3. The specific objectives of this Protocol shall be to facilitate the following, in close consultation and collaboration within the SADC Regional Statistical System, as well as the Continental and International Statistical Systems:
4. Serving as a policy framework for enabling and enhancing statistical development and innovation in the region;
5. Ensuring harmonization of concepts, definitions and methodologies as per international best practices for production and dissemination of national and regional statistics;
6. Serving as an instrument for advocacy of statistical development in the region;
7. Enhancing cooperation and institutional arrangements between key stakeholders of the National Statistical System on statistical matters;
8. Adhering to the Principles as enshrined in the African Charter of Statistics and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics for national and regional activities;
9. Aligning the goals of National Strategies to Regional, Continental and International Strategies for the development of statistics;
10. Providing a framework for enforcing compliance on minimum standards on quality and transmission of statistics in standardized formats;
11. Serving as an instrument for undertaking resource mobilization to implement national and regional statistical programmes;
12. Coordinating regional statistical programmes to strengthen quality, coherence and governance of regional statistics and avoiding duplication of work; and
13. Fostering bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics for the improvement of statistics in the SADC Regional Statistical System.

# ARTICLE 3

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. In implementing this Protocol, State Parties shall co-operate in good faith and shall be guided by, and give effect to, the principles set out in this Article, and as laid down in the UN Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics, endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 1994 and the UN General Assembly in 2014;
2. State Parties shall implement necessary activities in their strategic and annual plans to understand needs of users and the purpose statistics should serve to ensure official statistics are relevant to facilitate easy and correct use;
3. State Parties shall ensure that official statistics are compiled and disseminated based on professional independence, standards and ethics determined only by statistical considerations and free from bias and political interference, with transparent procedures and all users having equal access to statistical releases at the same time;
4. State Parties shall ensure all statistical decisions are based on scientific criteria such as transparency on methodological and other standards, application of professional ethical guidelines and objectivity of reporting to build and maintain public trust and robustness in credibility of statistics;
5. State Parties shall design and implement procedures such as Code of Practices on statistical standards, methodologies and guidelines about accessibility of information on statistical practices to ensure transparency and accountability and increase the confidence of users of statistics as an evidence base for decisions.;
6. State Parties shall implement measures to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics to maintain trust and thereby improving the use and understanding of statistics;
7. State Parties shall use official statistics drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records and choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents;
8. State Parties shall ensure confidentiality where individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal or personal entities, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes;
9. State Parties shall abide by legislations including laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate and which are to be made public;
10. State Parties shall set up institutional framework for coordination role within their statistical system to achieve consistency and ensuring each stakeholder institution meet the relevant quality standard;
11. State Parties shall use international standards where statistical agencies in each country adopt international concepts, classifications and methods that promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels;
12. State Parties shall foster international cooperation where bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

# ARTICLE 4

# STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS

1. State Parties shall design and update their National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDS) in line with their national statistical priorities, responsive to new challenges and aligned to the goals of:
2. The SADC Regional Strategy for Development of Statistics (RSDS) for production of regional statistics to monitor the SADC Regional Integration Agenda;
3. The Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) to produce statistics for monitoring the implementation of AU Agenda 2063; and
4. The Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) for sustainable development data for producing statistics to monitor implementation of the SDGs.
5. State Parties shall develop and implement a Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to measure and evaluate the impact on outputs and outcomes of their NSDS towards serving national and regional policy needs.

# ARTICLE 5

# LEGAL PROVISION

State Parties shall update their Legal Frameworks to align them to this Protocol and with clear provisions to uphold the tenets stated in the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and African Charter on Statistics, guiding the production and dissemination of official statistics to meet national, regional, continental and international needs.

# ARTICLE 6

# DATA SOURCES

1. State Parties shall collect household-based and enterprise-based micro-data for compilation of official statistics in both formal and informal sectors of their economies, using a combination of data sources such as censuses, surveys, administrative sources and applying scientific statistical estimation procedures for non-response, to serve national and regional data needs.
2. For purpose of sub-article 1, State Parties shall implement appropriate survey design methodology, data collection techniques such as interview-assisted, self-assisted and computer-aided methods, sampling procedures and geospatial technology infrastructure support, to conduct:
3. Population & Housing Census and Agricultural Census at intervals of 10 years;
4. Household Expenditure Surveys (HES), Economic Census, Agricultural Cost of Production, Demographic, Health, Labor Force and Living Standards Surveys every 3-5 years;
5. Annual and Quarterly Enterprise-based surveys on economic parameters of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of their economic territory; and
6. Multi-Purpose Household Surveys to capture socio-economic characteristics of their economies.
7. State Parties shall
8. Establish institutional arrangements within their National Statistical System to access administrative data sources as supplement to censuses and surveys;
9. Forge partnerships with public and private sector organizations through legal and institutional instruments to access Big Data sources to enable efficient and evidence-based decision making for sustainable development; and
10. Prioritize the development, implementation and maintenance of Statistical Business Register (SBR) to harmonize survey frames and administrative data collection.

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# ARTICLE 7

**METHODOLOGICAL ADHERANCE**

State Parties shall implement recommendations of latest Manuals and Guidelines on statistical methodologies, classifications, standards, concepts and definitions as endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission Meetings in respective statistical domains.

# ARTICLE 8

**GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION**

1. State Parties shall include legal ordinances on accessibility of spatial information for statistical needs and set up institutional arrangements with providers of geospatial data to develop a statistical spatial framework for collection and analysis of data for national, regional and global agenda data needs.
2. State Parties shall, through the coordinating body of the national statistical system, establish a national spatial data infrastructure, define and promote interoperability between statistical and spatial data infrastructure to support cartographic work for census and survey planning operations.

# ARTICLE 9

**DATA DISAGGREGATION**

State parties shall design their data collection methods to cater for production and dissemination of disaggregated data by types, including gender, age, economic sector, marginalized groups, migrating population and sub-national levels to monitor SADC Regional Integration process.

# ARTICLE 10

# POVERTY MEASUREMENT

State Parties shall produce the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) built with indicators of Health, Education, Standard of Living and Unemployment as a common SADC methodological framework to produce national and regional poverty statistics.

# ARTICLE 11

# INDUSTRIALIZATION

1. State Parties shall prioritize development of industrial statistics and manufacturing related services in their NSDS and Annual Plans to generate relevant annual statistical indicators to support the SADC Industrialization Strategy.
2. For purpose of sub-article (1), State Parties shall:
3. Adapt the recommendations of the UN International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics to national priorities to define, in particular, scope of industrial statistics and criteria for classifying industries by small, medium and large enterprises;
4. Produce and disseminate industrial sector indicators such as: index of industrial production (IIP), producer price index (PPI), employment, compensation of employees, output, value added, investment and environmental expenditures to measure the performance of the industrial sector of SADC region;
5. Develop and maintain a mining statistics database with annual data on production, trade, prices and stocks; and
6. Produce specialized National Accounts statistical tables such as Supply – Use Tables (SUT), Input-Output Tables (IOT) and Social Accounting Matrices (SAM) to evaluate participation in industrialization within SADC region.

# ARTICLE 12

# MACROECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICIES

1. State Parties shall produce and disseminate monthly, quarterly and annual macroeconomic statistics using common methodological standards and statistical classifications to monitor the Macroeconomic and Financial policies of SADC Agenda, in particular, implementation of the recommendations of international manuals and guidelines such as:
2. The System of National Accounts (SNA) and its minimum requirement data set as part of its scope to produce and disseminate annual and quarterly National Accounts aggregates;
3. The Consumer Price Index Manual (CPI) for production of Harmonized Consumer Price Indices (HCPIs);
4. The Manual of Balance of Payment and International Investment Position for production of External Sector flows within SADC region and rest of the world;
5. The Government and Finance Statistics Manual (GFSM) for production of integrated flows and stocks of Government accounts and tax database to support fiscal analysis;
6. The Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual and Compilation Guide (MFSM) for production of monetary and financial statistics to enhance financial integration in the region;
7. The Training Manual on Statistics for Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) and operations on Transnational Corporations for production of intra and extra-SADC Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows and stocks; and
8. The External Debt Statistics Manual for production of statistics on External Debt for early detection of countries’ external vulnerability.
9. State Parties shall undertake annual financial inclusion surveys using household surveys and administrative data to compute indicators on cover access, usage and quality parameters of financial services to produce annual indicators on Financial Inclusion.

# ARTICLE 13

# TRADE LIBERALIZATION

1. State Parties shall produce and disseminate monthly, quarterly and annual merchandise trade statistics flows within the region and the rest of the world as per the UN International Merchandise Trade Statistics Manual recommendations for monitoring of SADC trade liberalization agenda.
2. State Parties shall produce quarterly and annual Exports and Imports Price Indices as per the recommendations of the IMF Export and Import Price Index Manual for analyzing exports and import prices competitiveness.
3. State Parties shall implement recommendations of the Manual of the International Trade in Services to produce annual flows of trade in services, inward foreign affiliates and outward foreign affiliates by partner country to monitor SADC liberalization of trade in services in the region.

# ARTICLE 14

# INFRASTRUCTURE

1. State Parties shall put up institutional arrangements with Regulatory Bodies, Ministries and Specialized Enterprises involved in enabling and providing infrastructure services to harmonize data collection and dissemination of infrastructure indicators.
2. State Parties shall mainstream the annual production and dissemination of infrastructure statistics using harmonized concepts and methods to produce annual indicators on parameters such as access, use, affordability, pricing, fiscal and technical for monitoring the infrastructure networks and services in the region:
3. Utility Infrastructure comprising of Electricity, Water, Sanitation and Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
4. Transport Infrastructure covering Roads, Railways, Ports and Air Transport; and
5. Weather and climate information.

# ARTICLE 15

# AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD SECURITY

1. State Parties shall implement the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2010 to produce on a sustainable basis and to apply the basic data and information needed to guide decision making on agriculture and rural sector. Implementation of the strategy includes production and use of the following minimum set of core data:
2. Core crop items;
3. Core livestock items;
4. Core aquaculture and fisheries products;
5. Core forestry production;
6. Core agricultural inputs;
7. Socioeconomic characteristics of agricultural and rural households;
8. Land Cover; and
9. Public expenditures on subsidies, infrastructure, health and education in rural areas.
10. State Parties shall implement the methodological guidelines of FAO to produce annual food balance sheets (FBS) to provide a comprehensive analysis of food and nutrition situation supply and use in SADC region.

# ARTICLE 16

# ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

1. State Parties shall design and implement robust and sustainable institutional arrangements and statistical coordination with relevant stakeholders’ institutions to develop a nationally centralized database on disaster risk reduction statistics.
2. For purpose of sub-article (1), State parties shall develop a disaster related statistics framework and use traditional data sources and spatial data infrastructure to provide timely statistical information on the following dimensions to enable decision-makers to assess impact of disasters on social, economic and environmental conditions:
3. Hazard mapping of population and critical infrastructure;
4. Exposure to measure people, housing, buildings, transportation facilities and other infrastructure, land use, production capacities and other potentially important variables located in the hazard areas;
5. Vulnerability measurement in risk assessment;
6. Coping capacity in terms of resilience of households, businesses, communities, social-ecological systems and whole country; and
7. Impact on social, economic and environment losses.
8. State Parties shall develop and implement inter-institutional collaborative arrangements within stakeholders’ institutions in environment and climate change to coordinate strategic development and production of environment statistics.
9. State Parties shall compile and disseminate annual environment statistics in conformity with common harmonized concepts and methodologies, such as:
10. The UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES) covering core statistics on climate change, land cover, ecosystems and biodiversity, water, wastes, disaster risk reduction and human settlements;
11. The System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework, covering accounts for Water, Energy, Ecosystem, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Air Emissions and Material Flows; and

# ARTICLE 17

# TOURISM

1. State Parties shall implement recommendations of the UN Manual for Tourism Statistics to produce annual indicators on expenditures and activities for inbound and outbound tourism.
2. State Parties shall develop Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) using the methodological framework of the OECD Manual for constructing TSA to provide statistical information for monitoring economic impact of tourism within SADC region.

# ARTICLE 18

# DEMOGRAPHY, HEALTH AND EDUCATION

1. State Parties shall use a combination of data sources to produce annual sex and age-specific demographic and health indicators pertaining to life expectancy, expenditures, mortality, environmental hazards, communicable including HIV and non-communicable diseases, to monitor acceptable health standards in the region.
2. State Parties shall implement the concepts, definitions and classifications of the UNESCO Manual on Education statistics to provide comparable indicators on enrollment and expenditures by fields and types of education for SADC region.

# ARTICLE 19

# EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR

1. State Parties shall set up institutional arrangements and use a combination of data sources to develop and maintain a sustainable annual Labor Market Information System to provide indicators on labor characteristics for regional needs.
2. For purpose of sub-article (1), State Parties shall produce disaggregated statistics as per Article (9) using recommendations and guidelines set out by the International Labor Organization (ILO) on: labor force, employment, unemployment, economically active population, average earnings, hours of work, labor productivity, occupational injuries and health, and industrial disputes.
3. State Parties shall undertake regular household surveys to collect and disseminate annual economic, social, age and gender-disaggregated statistics on migration within SADC region to measure their impact on economic integration.

# ARTICLE 20

# GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY

1. State Parties shall integrate survey modules in their existing household surveys to collect population experiences and unbiased views to produce Governance, Peace and Security statistics to assess the region strategic objective to improve peace and security.
2. For purpose of sub-article (1), State Parties shall cover the following themes in their data collection framework:
3. Democracy, discrimination and respect of human rights;
4. Efficiency, fairness and responsiveness of public institutions to individuals;
5. Prevalence and extent of corruption;
6. Political participations;
7. Potential threats to security; and
8. Conflicts, tension and violence in neighborhood.

# ARTICLE 21

# SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

1. State Parties shall design and implement Research and Development (R & D) surveys or integrate a module in existing economic surveys to produce and disseminate R & D statistics by institutional sectors such as Business Enterprise, Higher Education, Government and Private non-profit as per the OECD Frascati Manual.
2. State Parties shall implement guidelines for collecting, reporting and using data on innovation of the Oslo Manual to produce business innovation indicators every 1 – 3 years covering the private sector and public corporations.

# ARTICLE 22

# GENDER

1. State Parties shall produce official statistics related to individuals, disaggregated by sex and age on an annual basis to monitor gender parity in SADC Agenda for achieving sustainable development in the region.
2. State Parties shall produce annual official statistics on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and design sample surveys or add a module of questions in an existing household survey to capture core indicators on prevalence, types, classification and characteristics of GBV as per the UN Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against women.
3. State Parties shall compile and disseminate annually official gender statistics to relevant platforms nationally, regionally and internationally.

# ARTICLE 23

# DATA QUALITY ASSESSMENT

State Parties shall participate and be subject to regular data quality assessment undertakings including peer review mechanism, to ensure national practices are compliant to internationally accepted methodologies and to the core principles enshrined in the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and African Charter of Statistics.

# ARTICLE 24

# DATA TRANSMISSION

1. State Parties shall transmit monthly, quarterly and annual data necessary for monitoring and measuring progress of SADC Development Agenda in standardized formats with respective metadata on statistical themes.
2. State Parties shall implement Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) technology in statistical domains to standardize and harmonize transmission of data and metadata to regional, continental and international organizations.

# ARTICLE 25

# MICRODATA

State Parties shall develop and implement appropriate transparent and publicly available procedures to allow for sharing of micro-data solely for the purpose of statistical analysis to support research studies at national level and regional studies on integration and globalization under specific confidentiality procedures.

# ARTICLE 26

# IMPLEMENTATION

1. State Parties shall ensure the application and implementation of this Protocol at national level.
2. State Parties shall ensure that national statistical programmes evaluation and monitoring mechanisms are in place.
3. State Parties shall submit annual reports to the SADC Statistics Committee, through the Executive Secretary, showing achievements in the application/implementation of the provisions of this Protocol;
4. The achievements of the Protocol implementation will be reviewed by independent experts and approved by the SADC Statistics Committee.
5. State Parties shall ensure that all stakeholders in the National Statistical System are adequately consulted to align the Protocol with national legal frameworks.

# ARTICLE 27

# INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The institutional arrangements for the implementation of this Protocol shall comprise the SADC Statistics Committee (SSC) and the SADC Secretariat.
2. The SSC, comprising the heads of the National Statistics Offices shall:
3. provide policy, strategic and professional guidance for the statistical development and integration processes;
4. set priorities, mobilize resources for and oversee the implementation of statistical development in SADC;
5. provide support for the development of the SADC Regional Statistical System, including any legal instruments;
6. seek to achieve the comparability, standardization and harmonization of data across the SADC Regional Statistical System;
7. arrange to organise and participate in SSC meetings at least once every year; and
8. The SADC Secretariat, represented by the Statistics Unit, shall be responsible for facilitating and coordinating the implementation of the Protocol and shall:
9. co-ordinate and rationalise all regional statistical activities in line with continental and international statistical frameworks;
10. design and implement regional projects on prioritised statistical subject matter areas;
11. provide leadership, professional and technical advice on statistical harmonisation and standardisation issues;
12. be the central point for regional data and statistics including technical advice on the development, maintenance and updating of official regional statistics database;
13. ensure that SADC regional statistics are accessible and usable by a whole range of stakeholders; and
14. develop and project well-coordinated and coherent positions of SADC regional statistics in continental and international forums.

# ARTICLE 28

# FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Regional and national statistical strategies and programmes under this Protocol may be financed from:

1. Allocation of financial resources by State Parties in their budgets;
2. Various other sources including continental, international organisations and other development partners; and
3. The SADC Secretariat’s financial resources subject to SADC Rules and Procedures.

# ARTICLE 29

#  RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS

Subject to the provisions of Article 6(1) of the Treaty, State Parties shall maintain good relations and other forms of cooperation, and may enter into agreements with other states, regions and international organisations, whose objectives are compatible with the objectives and provisions of this Protocol

# ARTICLE 30

# SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

State Parties shall strive to settle any dispute arising from the application, interpretation or implementation of the provisions of this Protocol amicably, and any dispute which cannot be settled amicably, shall be referred to the SADC Tribunal for adjudication in accordance with Article 16 of the Treaty.

# ARTICLE 31

# WITHDRAWAL

1. Any State Party shall be considered to have withdrawn from this Protocol upon the expiration of twelve (12) months from the date of giving written notice to that effect to the Executive Secretary of SADC.

2. Such State Parties shall cease to enjoy all rights and benefits under this Protocol upon the withdrawal becoming effective.

# ARTICLE 32

# AMENDMENT

1. A State Party may propose an amendment to this Protocol and shall submit such proposal to the Executive Secretary of SADC.

2. In amending this Protocol, State Parties shall proceed in accordance with Article 22 of the Treaty.

# ARTICLE 33

# SIGNATURE

This Protocol shall be signed by the duly authorised representatives of Member States.

# ARTICLE 34

# RATIFICATION

This Protocol shall be ratified by the signatory States in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

# ARTICLE 35

# ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Protocol shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of the instruments of Ratification by two-thirds of the Member States.

# ARTICLE 36

# ACCESSION

This Protocol shall remain open for accession by any Member State.

# ARTCILE 37

# DEPOSITORY

1. The original texts of this protocol and all instruments of ratification and accession shall be deposited with the SADC Executive Secretary, who shall transmit certified copies to all State Parties.
2. The SADC Executive Secretary shall register this Protocol with the United Nations, African Union Commission and any other relevant organisations, which the Council of SADC may determine.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE**, the Heads of State or Government, or duly authorized Representatives of SADC Member States, have signed this Protocol.

**DONE** at …………, on the ……day of ………….in three (3) original texts, in the English, French and Portuguese languages, all texts being equally authentic.

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**REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

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**UNION OF COMOROS DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CONGO**

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**KINGDOM OF ESWATINI KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

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**REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

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**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

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**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

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**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

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**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**