



Joint SADC PF and INTER PARES Workshop Enhancing Parliaments' Role in Defending and Promoting Human Rights in Southern Africa

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY ONE

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

For in-person attendance:

Ufulu Gardens Hotel

43/365, Ufulu Road, PO Box 30727, Lilongwe

For online engagement, use **Zoom Platform**:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87059475440?pwd=jHExVR4vWdQn4T5bsq59b0dZciuJPU.1>

Meeting ID: 870 5947 5440

Passcode: 781835

Time in the Agenda is indicated both in Central African Time (CAT) and Central European Time (CET).

08:30 – 09:00 CAT

Registration of Participants

OFFICIAL OPENING

09:00 – 09:30 CAT

08:00 – 08:30 CET

- **Her Excellency Madam Boemo Sekgoma**, Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum
- **Mr. Ivo Hoefkens**, Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation to the Republic of Malawi
- **Dr Jonathan Murphy**, Head of Programme, INTER PARES, International IDEA
- **Dr Roba Sharamo**, Regional Director for Africa and West Asia, International IDEA (*online intervention*)
- **Hon. Tendai Nyabani**, Chairperson of the SADC-PF Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights, Zimbabwe

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote and Official Opening Address by Rt. Honourable Catherine Gotani Hara, Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi
09:30 – 09:45 CAT 08:30 – 08:45 CET	Introductions, Expected Outcomes and Overview of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Sheuneni Kurasha, SADC PF Programme Manager, Democracy, Governance and Human Rights
09:45 – 10:15 CAT	GROUP PHOTOGRAPHY & COFFEE BREAK
SESSION I: SETTING THE SCENE	
10:15 – 11:15 CAT 09:15 – 10:15 CET SADCPF Guidelines  INTER PARES Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SADC PF’s Trendsetting Role in Parliaments and Human Rights; Profiling the Principles and Guidelines for Parliaments in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the SADC region</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Sheuneni Kurasha, SADC PF Programme Manager Democracy, Governance & Human Rights - Dr Landilani Banda, Legal Practitioner & Drafter of the SADC PF Principles & Guidelines • <i>Trends and opportunities for parliamentary engagement in human rights in Europe and around the world</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr Kirsten Roberts Lyer, Professor, Central European University, human rights practitioner and author of INTER PARES Toolkit on Effective Human Rights Engagement for Parliamentary Bodies <p>Q & A and Reflections from participants</p>
SESSION II: FROM PRINCIPLES TO ACTION – PUTTING PARLIAMENTS AT THE PULSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS	
11:15 – 12:15 CAT 10:15 – 11:15 CET	Discussion Panel One: Establishing and Strengthening Parliamentary Human Rights Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u><i>Mandate, composition and working methods</i></u>: the powers of the committee should be clearly established in law, in parliament’s rules and made publicly available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Utaara Mootu, SADC PF DGHR Member, Namibia ○ Hon. Milorad Pupovac, Chairperson of the Committee on Human and National Minority Rights, Parliament of Croatia (<i>online intervention</i>) • <u><i>Responsibilities and functions</i></u>: a clear mission statement to help ensure effectiveness and legitimacy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Cláudia Santos, Vice-President of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees, Parliament of Portugal (<i>online intervention</i>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ensure human and financial resources and support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Jerónima Agostinho SADC PF DGHR Member, Mozambique <p><i>Panel moderated by Dr Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, INTER PARES, International IDEA</i></p>
12:15 – 13:30 CAT 11:15 – 12:30 CET	LUNCH BREAK
SESSION II Continues...	
13:30 – 14:45 CAT 12:30 – 13:45 CET	<p>Discussion Panel Two: Sensitising Parliamentarians on their role to safeguard human rights (law-making)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when preparing national legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Adam Bodnar, Former Polish Ombudsman for Citizens Rights; elected to the Senate of the Parliament of Poland in October 2023 (<i>online intervention</i>) • when deciding on the national budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Richard Labrosse, SADC PF DGHR Member, Seychelles • when ratifying international/regional conventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Darren Bergman, SADC PF DGHR Member, South Africa <p><i>Panel moderated by Ms Maureen Shonge, Regional Policy Specialist, Women’s Political Participation, UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESARO)</i></p>
14:45 – 15:15 CAT 13:45 – 14:15 CET	COFFEE BREAK
15:15 – 16:30 CAT 14:15 – 15:30 CET	<p>Discussion Panel Three: Sensitising Parliamentarians on their role to safeguard human rights (oversight)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hon. Leonard Mwalwanda, SADC PF DGHR Member, Malawi ○ Hon. Erik Ottoson, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on the Constitution, Parliament of Sweden (<i>online intervention</i>) ○ JUDr. Eduard Csudai, PhD, Head of Secretariat, Committee on Human Rights and National Minorities, National Council of the Slovak Republic (<i>online intervention</i>) <p><i>Panel Moderated by Mr Gram Matenga, Programme Manager, International IDEA</i></p>
18:00 – 19:30 CAT 17:00 – 18:30 CET	Reception

DAY TWO

Thursday, November 9, 2023

For online engagement, use Zoom Platform:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87059475440?pwd=jHExVR4vWdQn4T5bsq59b0dZciuJPU.1>

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SESSION III: SPECIFIC THEMES IN PARLIAMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

10:00 – 10:30 CAT

09:00 – 09:30 CET

Recap of Previous Day and assignment of participants to groups

- **Mr Sheuneni Kurasha**, Programme Manager, SADC PF & **Ms Sophie Guruli**, Senior Programme Officer, INTER PARES, International IDEA

WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS (Parallel Sessions)

10:30 – 12:00 CAT

09:30 – 11:00 CET

Group A (Hybrid Session): The role of regional parliamentary bodies and regional governance institutions in fostering and advancing human rights

- Practical challenges and innovative approaches to the promotion and protection of human rights in the SADC region and the European Union
- How is the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights implemented in the different countries in the region? Sharing best practices between parliaments in the region.
- Taking part in regional parliamentary assemblies dealing with human rights: SADC Parliamentary Forum, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) as three examples of regional parliamentary bodies dealing with human rights.
 - o **SADC PF DGHR Members** with contributions from:
 - o **Mr Stefan Krauss**, Head of Human Rights Action Unit, European Parliament (*online intervention*)
 - o **Dr Kirsten Roberts Lyer**, Professor, Central European University, human rights practitioner and author INTER PARES Toolkit on Effective Human Rights Engagement for Parliamentary Bodies (*online intervention*)

Discussion moderated by **Mr Sheuneni Kurasha**, SADC PF

	<p>Group B (In-person Session): Parliamentary Inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to parliamentary venues for disabled persons: the parliamentary building is an important symbol as being the house where elected representatives work. Both MPs, staff and visitors, no matter if they have disabilities, should be able to enter that building physically. - People with hearing or visual impairment should also have access to legislative documents and be able to follow political debates in the chamber. Discussion on possible technical and physical ways to handle this. - Representation of women and minorities in the parliament: What actions can be taken to enable women and minorities to work as MPs on the same conditions as male MPs? <p><i>Discussion moderated by Dr Landilani Banda, Legal Practitioner & Drafter of the SADC PF Principles & Guidelines</i></p>
<p>12:00 – 13:30 CAT 11:00 – 12:30 CET</p>	<p>LUNCH BREAK</p>
<p>REPORTING BACK FROM WORKING GROUPS AND NEXT STEPS</p>	
<p>13:30 – 14:30 CAT 12:30 – 13:30 CET</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting back from working groups - Presentation of the draft Communiqué for the Regional Joint Workshop - Next Steps
<p>14:30 – 15:00 CAT 13:30 – 14:00 CET</p>	<p>Closing Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vote of thanks by a representative of the Participants - Closing Remarks by Hon. Tendai Nyabani, Chairperson of the SADC-PF Standing Committee on Democratisation, Governance and Human Rights & Dr Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, INTER PARES, International IDEA - End of Joint Regional Workshop

Thank You

**for participating in the Joint Regional Workshop on
Enhancing Parliaments' Role in Defending and Promoting
Human Rights in Southern Africa**

We would appreciate if you could share your feedback about the workshop by filling in the Post-Event Evaluation Survey, which you can download from the QR Code below:

