Regional Forum on

Developmental Regionalism, Peace and Economic Transformation in Southern Africa

28-30 September 2016

Ezulwini, Swaziland

Outcome Statement
Preamble

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Sub-regional Office for Southern Africa (ECA-SRO-SA) and the African Peacebuilding Network (APN) of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), in collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, organized a regional forum on “Developmental Regionalism, Peace and Economic Transformation in Southern Africa” from 28-30 September 2016 hosted by the Kingdom of Swaziland at the Royal Swazi Spa Valley Resort in Ezulwini, Swaziland.

Participants consisted of scholars, policymakers and government officials, and representatives from civil society, regional institutions, UN agencies and regional economic communities (RECs) (SADC and COMESA). Participants came from across the SADC region, Canada, France, Nigeria and Sweden.

Forum Objectives

The main objective of the regional forum and associated research project was to interrogate the notion of developmental regionalism and how it applies to Southern Africa, especially within the context of the development trajectory of SADC. Of primary importance are the policy options and interventions necessary to ensure a sustained peaceful and stable regional developmental process in Southern Africa.

The specific objectives of the forum were to:

- Unpack and interrogate the notion and concept of developmental regionalism and how it applies to Southern Africa and its regional institutions;
- Examine how the institutional architecture and capacity of the SADC, including its peace and security capability, facilitates developmental regionalism;
- Analyse how key policy priorities and implementation strategies, especially in the areas of trade, industry, agriculture, private sector development and conflict management, facilitate developmental regionalism in Southern Africa;
- Explore the ramifications of regional interventions for peacebuilding and regional security in post-conflict Southern African countries;
- Understand the internal dynamics of the regional development process and the nature of economic equilibrium and symmetry involved for Member States;
- Analyse how citizens' voice, peace, power and participation are mainstreamed in the development discourse and policy options in the regional integration agenda;
- Provide comparative perspectives on how inter-regional development and the global system affect the object of development regionalism in Southern Africa; and
- Proffer key policy options and strategies on how developmental regionalism can be consummated and sustained in Southern Africa promotive of economic transformation in the region.
Summary of Proceedings

During the Opening Session, welcoming and introductory remarks were delivered by Prof. Said Adejumobi, Director of the ECA Sub regional Office for Southern Africa, and Prof. Cyril Obi, Program Director of the African Peacebuilding Network of the Social Science Research Council. Remarks were also given by the UN Resident Coordinator in Swaziland, Mr. Israel Dessalegne, and SADC Deputy Executive Secretary for Regional Integration, Dr. Thembinkosi Mhlongo. The Guest of Honour, the Honourable Minister for Economic Planning and Development, Prince Hlangusemphi, officially opened the forum.

Presentations on research papers that were prepared for the forum were delivered by participants. The forum included sessions on Discourse and Economic Context, Trade and Agriculture, Mining and Industrialization, Social and Political Dynamics, Gender and Sustainability and Comparative Perspectives on Developmental Regionalism. Each paper was critically interrogated by discussants during each session. In addition to the aforementioned presentations, there were two roundtable discussions: one on "Sustainable Financing for Developmental Regionalism" and another on "Citizens’ Participation in the Implementation of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap".

Observations:

- Regional integration in Africa in general, and Southern Africa in particular, is a strategy of development; hence, developmental regionalism provides a basis for understanding and analysing development processes and outcomes at the regional level;

- Citizens’ participation is central to promoting developmental regionalism - whose end-goal is to promote sustained but collective economic progress and transformation, human and social development, and better livelihoods for the citizens of the region;

- The promotion of peace, security and democratic stability and their consolidation are germane to developmental regionalism and it is noteworthy that SADC remains perhaps the most peaceful region on the continent;

- There is usually a wide gap between Member States signing and domesticate/implementing regional agreements, hence, the limited results from the regional development agenda;

- Although RECs constitute the building blocks of the AU, there is limited synergy in the coordination of their (RECs’) activities and programmes;

- The agendas of regional institutions are often broad, making sustained focus fairly difficult and dissipating capacity and resources amongst various programmes, with limited results;
• There is limited participation of non-state actors, including the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs), in the conceptualization and operationalization of the regional integration process;

• Regionalism is taking place spontaneously outside of inter-state interactions. In other words, informal regionalism appears to be far ahead of formal processes of regionalism;

• Development is not only about economic progress and infrastructure development, but also about the mind-set and capacity of the people for social transformation;

• Xenophobia is antithetical to the ethos of pan-Africanism and developmental regionalism and should be adequately addressed;

• Human mobility within a region is as important as the movement of capital and goods; hence, the freedom of movement of people across the SADC region is very central to developmental regionalism;

• Southern African countries do not yet demonstrate strong convergence on macroeconomic policies in general, with varying monetary institutions and policies in particular; hence, the SADC region is not ready for a monetary union;

• Countries in the SADC region are at different levels of harmonising their national laws on the independence of the central bank to the SADC model law on it. However, context matters on this issue and countries should take that into consideration in the reform of their central bank law;

• Southern Africa's natural resources, including land and agriculture, and minerals and metals, require regional strategies in leveraging them for economic transformation and development;

• The Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA), comprising EAC, COMESA and SADC, will expectedly provide an expanded base for trade and investments across Southern and Eastern Africa; however, the supply side of production is important for the success of this important initiative;

• There is need to explore alternative modalities of financing regional projects, including capital markets, development finance institutions (DFIs) and public-private partnerships, among others. However, project preparation capacity for bankable projects remains limited in the region;

• Although gender is given visibility in the policy documents of SADC, mainstreaming it into development projects and priorities remains limited;
• The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap is commendable, but unpacking and implementing it will be central to its outcome and relevance to facilitating economic transformation, poverty eradication and development in the region; and

• Challenges to developmental regionalism in Southern Africa include limited financial resources, weak institutional and human capacity and a limited production base. The sharing of regional resources is essential for even and sustained development.

**Recommendations:**

• Citizens’ participation in developing regional plans, priorities and agendas should be promoted in all the structures and processes of SADC as a means of facilitating broad ownership of regional development processes;

• Non-state actors, including the private sector and CSOs, should be an integral part of the process of conceptualizing and operationalizing the regional integration process;

• Regional integration should promote fairly balanced and equitable development that emphasizes enhanced production through regional value chains and industrialization, for all countries in the region;

• There is need to interrogate the lack of compliance with regional agreements and develop mechanisms with timelines to monitor their domestication and implementation;

• Clear focus and selective choices of priorities should be made in ensuring the success of regional integration processes;

• It is important to strengthen the institutional and human capacity of the SADC Secretariat and resource it primarily from regional resources; external funding sources should be only complementary;

• The movement of persons is central to creating a sense of regional citizenship and identity and sharing regional human capacity for the economic transformation of the region. Hence, SADC Member States should, as a matter of urgency, ratify the SADC Protocol on Facilitation of the Movement of Persons;

• Security concerns have been cited as a possible constraint to the free movement of persons; however, sharing of intelligence information and security resources may be a way of handling the security challenge rather than the closing of national borders to regional citizens;

• The region should invest in the areas of science and technology to address the skills gap and anchor industrialization, and also facilitate the free movement of skills to strengthen the sense of regional citizenship and identity, especially amongst young people. In this
In regard, the initiative of establishing the SADC University of Transformation by his Majesty, King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland as current Chair of SADC is highly commendable;

- Incorporating symbolic features like the AU or SADC anthems alongside national anthems, adopting a common regional identity card and passport, and including regional integration issues in the curriculum of schools should be considered to inculcate a sense of belonging;

- The SADC Regional Agricultural policy, Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan and Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap should be effectively implemented for the economic transformation of the region;

- Effective governance of the region's natural resources, including investing in geological exploration to assess the types, quantity, and quality of mineral endowments, capacity to monitor mineral production, and also prudent use of revenue from the mining sector for development purposes, are essential;

- Inter-REC coordination and harmonization is central for the RECs to serve as effective building blocks of the AU and realising the African development vision of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs;

- Gender should be mainstreamed in all the programmes and activities of the SADC Secretariat and its Member States as a matter of priority;

- Promoting the relative independence of central banks and effective macro-economic management, including monetary policy, in facilitating sustained economic growth and development will ease the implementation of the regional economic integration agenda, including the monetary union objective;

- SADC should scale up its efforts at promoting peace, security and stability in the region and the objective of human security, through the reduction of poverty and inequality, should be pursued vigorously;

- Member States and the SADC Secretariat should actively encourage and support the promotion of innovative research, knowledge and scholarship on regional integration in Southern Africa; and

- Comparative experiences from the European Union, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) provide useful lessons which SADC can benefit from.

Done in Ezulwini, Swaziland
30th September 2016