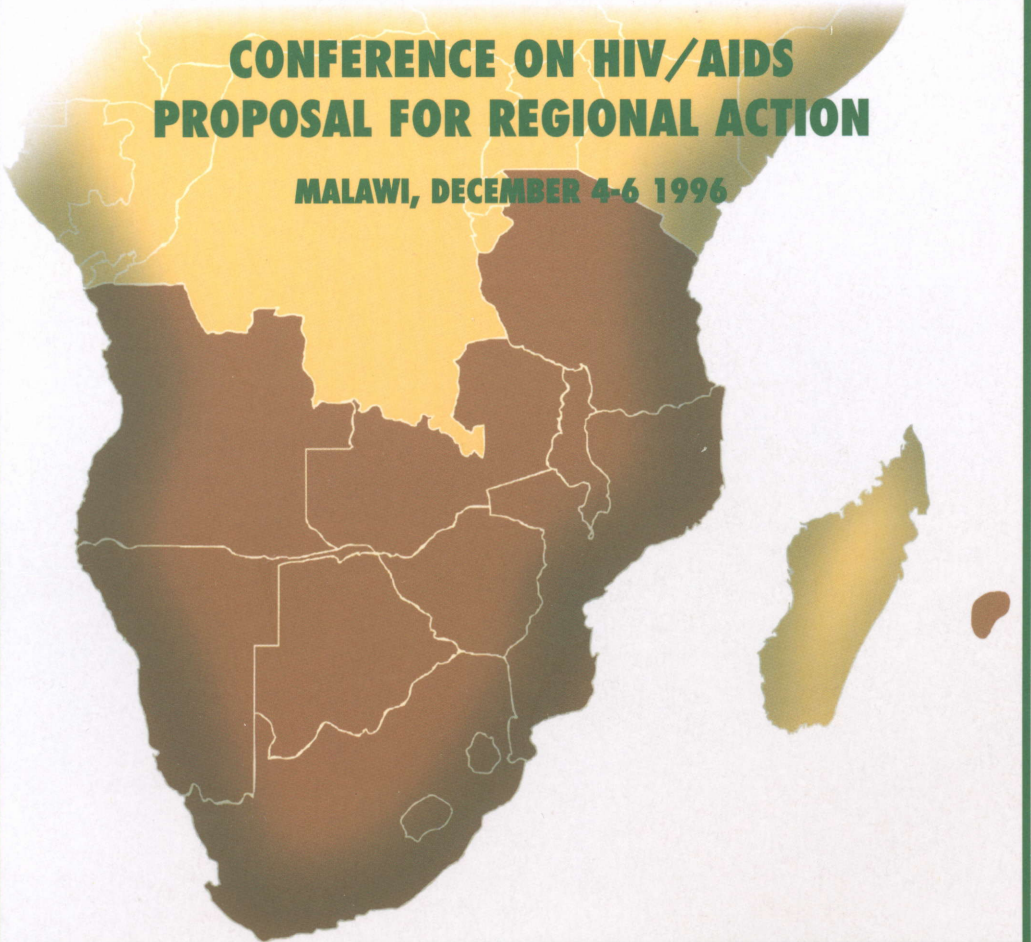




**EUROPEAN UNION  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY**

**CONFERENCE ON HIV/AIDS  
PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL ACTION**

**MALAWI, DECEMBER 4-6 1996**



EUROPEAN UNION  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

**CONFERENCE ON HIV/AIDS  
PROPOSAL FOR REGIONAL ACTION**

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

The Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV) and the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have been recognised in the Southern African region as a major problem with potentially profound implications for the further development of the region as a whole. High population movements, high levels of poverty and rapid urbanisation within Southern Africa underline the need for a regional strategy aimed at strengthening initiatives on HIV/AIDS. At the same time, the already high level of existing co-operation amongst the countries in Southern Africa and the increased moves towards regional integration under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) provide the necessary *modus operandi* for such a regional strategy.

As a first step towards the identification of a regional response to HIV/AIDS, the European Union and SADC jointly organised the “EU-SADC Conference on regional approaches to HIV/AIDS in the Southern African region”. The conference which took place in Lilongwe, Malawi, from the 4-6 of December 1996, brought together 109 delegates from all over the Southern African region and Europe.

The conference was unique in that it enabled the region to examine ways in which the HIV/AIDS epidemic could be addressed, as a regional multi-sectoral issue, within the broader development context. It succeeded in bringing together participants from a wide variety of fields, including key institutional actors from within SADC structures, with a view to identifying practical steps which could be taken to address HIV/AIDS related issues across a wide range of sectors.

The ultimate aim of the EU-SADC Conference was to define a policy framework for actions on HIV/AIDS in the Southern African region. The objective of such a policy framework: to strengthen initiatives both through regional support aimed at enhancing national actions and through specific regional activities.

True to this objective the outcome of the Conference – in the form of a “Statement on regional responses to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa” and the “SADC Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS”- provides a valuable beginning for a SADC regional policy framework on HIV/AIDS.

The present document aims to be a tool in the process of promoting the implementation of the recommendations contained in the conference “Statement” and the

“SADC plan of Action on HIV/AIDS”. It provides a background to the conference and a brief overview of the conference proceedings alongside the recommendations and outcome of the conference. It is hoped that all those who are trying to move forward in dealing with HIV/AIDS in their own area of activity will find the inspiration and encouragement they are looking for in the many ideas the Conference produced.

## **2. BACKGROUND TO THE CONFERENCE.**

### ***Stronger regional ties and EU/SADC Cooperation.***

The objective of closer regional integration is one that binds both the European Union and the Southern African Development Community. In SADC, the positive experiences of closer cooperation amongst the governments and peoples of Southern Africa has led to an ever greater emphasis on joint actions. This shared regional emphasis resulted in the establishment of a region to region dialogue between the EU and SADC under the Berlin Initiative (September 1994).

One of the main challenges identified by both partners under the ongoing political dialogue was the need for regional action on HIV/AIDS. The decision to put HIV/AIDS at the forefront of regional priorities is a continuation of systematic efforts in SADC to take on board urgent concerns in the social sectors which require regional attention. These efforts are also reflected in the current deliberations in the SADC Council of Ministers on the creation of a new SADC Sector for Health.

### ***The advantages of regional cooperation on HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa***

During the last decade, individual SADC states have put in place programmes and strategies on HIV/AIDS at a national level. This often with the help of the European Union and other international donors. Between 1987 and 1996 EU support for the Southern African region, amounted to nearly 40 million ECU. This support was focussed mainly on prevention strategies in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania, and on strengthening health services in the field of blood safety in Angola, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As the dimensions of the HIV/AIDS problem and the possible responses became better known, donor and individual country strategies have progressively moved from an emergency phase into a more long-term structural approach. It is in this context that the possible benefits of regional cooperation on HIV/AIDS for the countries in the Southern African region, as well as for the region's donors, should be assessed. In summary, regional interventions on HIV/AIDS can:

- \* offer economies of scale and support for regional public goods (e.g. research and training)
- \* be more responsive to particular regional characteristics of the HIV epidemic ( the rate, extent and pattern of transmission of HIV)
- \* better address the needs of specific vulnerable groups , not confined within the national borders of one country (eg. migration, refugees, tourists and specific categories of mobile workers in the transport or rural sectors)
- \* be more responsive in validating functional local approaches to HIV prevention and care (e.g. exchange of information on interventions in the field of education or in home based care).



- \* contribute to creating a sustainable capacity to conceive, design, implement and evaluate HIV and other sexual health programmes (e.g. networking on data exchange).

The added value of regional cooperation on HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa clearly illustrates the benefits of a regional response. This requires a framework which takes account both of existing national responses in the region and of the nature and scale of the epidemic in the Southern African Region.

### ***HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa: a multi-sectoral problem***

The implications of HIV/AIDS for the Southern African region are becoming evident as more and more of those infected by HIV several years ago now develop AIDS, fall ill and die. There are over 210,000 people in the SADC region at the moment with AIDS. This represents the numbers of those infected five or more years ago. The current number of people with HIV infection (who have not yet developed AIDS) is in the region of 3-4 million (assuming a general prevalence of 5-6% in the adult population). This number is rising and is likely to do so for at least a further 5 years.

The greatest concern arises from the additional and incremental impact over time on particular work forces, systems and communities that are already over-stretched. This impact can be seen in the public support sectors such as health and education, as well as on rural livelihoods and farming systems. Perhaps more insidiously, because of its potential impact on urban areas of the region, is an increase in the numbers of orphans by as much as 50%. Hence, a balance of human, social and economic factors need to be taken into account, if the region is to effectively plan prevention efforts and efforts to mitigate the increased impact over the next 5-10 years of those currently infected becoming sick and dying.

HIV/AIDS needs to be set within the context of the full range of health problems that face the region. In particular, the association of HIV/AIDS with an epidemic of TB, which has increased in magnitude as a result of AIDS, and the linkages between the occurrence of STDs and increased susceptibility to HIV/AIDS need to be taken into account. Equally, HIV/AIDS needs to be considered within the context of development as whole. The local vulnerabilities of populations, societies and systems – i.e. the social and economic context- will need to be taken into account, this is particularly the case in relation to gender.

In summary, the need to take account of a variety of social, cultural and economic factors in any regional response to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa, clearly points towards the need to tackle HIV/AIDS at a multi-sectoral level, requiring sectors other than the health sector, to take up their responsibilities.

### **3. THE CONFERENCE: DEVELOPING A REGIONAL RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS.**

#### ***The first steps towards a regional framework on HIV/AIDS***

The complexity of HIV/AIDS and the need for it to be dealt with at once as a multi-sectoral, developmental and regional problem presented a major challenge to the Conference, which set out to identify a policy framework for actions on HIV/AIDS in the Southern African region. It was agreed that the objective of such a policy framework would be “to strengthen initiatives dealing with HIV/AIDS” both through “regional support aimed at enhancing national actions” and through “specific regional activities”.

The task of creating a regional policy framework for action – if the framework was to be feasible, productive and politically workable – required the input of key actors from a variety of sectors and institutions involved in areas relevant to regional policy formulation and implementation. Hence participants at the conference included representatives of all SADC Member States, both governmental and non-governmental; people with HIV/AIDS, health experts as well as experts on other sectors affected by the epidemic; those responsible for regional policy implementation at a national level and those involved at a regional sectoral level; observers from bilateral and multi-lateral donors, and a number of journalists from the region and the EU. (See Annex 2: for a list of participants). This composition of conference participants ensured that the policy proposals put forward were closely linked to the current realities in the different SADC sectors affected by the pandemic and featuring in the Conference.

#### ***Identifying areas for regional action.***

The regional aspects of HIV/AIDS in relation to employment, mining, tourism, education, medical drugs, and the use of data were the specific areas which were chosen for discussion at the Conference. All underlined the critical impact of the pandemic on the broader development of the region. Their prominence during a conference on HIV/AIDS testifies to the overwhelming agreement within the region that policies and actions related to HIV/AIDS are the concern and responsibility of all sectors, and not just the health sector. Each of the topics provided a significant starting point for the development of regional policy in areas of relevance to HIV/AIDS that are of interest to SADC, and in which regional cooperation and policy development already exists.

The basis for an exploration of each of the topics was a basic assessment of the impact of HIV/AIDS on the topic/sector concerned and the potential for regional action on HIV/AIDS in that sector. In order to support this process, a set of background studies relating to HIV/AIDS and medicines, employment, mining, education and data were conducted by local Southern African researchers (see annex 3: Other Available Conference Documents”).

Intense half day workshops on each topic provided an opportunity for each sector to review the issues from within its own policy context. This allowed for the identification of actions relevant to existing regional structures and policies, a process which was particularly assisted by the fact that the Sector Coordinators for each SADC Sector acted as facilitators during the workshops. The role of the SADC Sector Coordinators ensured that the main focus of the debates was on actions which were feasible and appropriate within the regional policies and structures of their sector. At the same time, their involvement at the earliest stage of policy formulation facilitates the necessary follow up to the framework and actions agreed upon during the Conference.

A summary of discussions and findings of the individual workshops are published in a separate document entitled “Proceedings and Background Papers on Regional Action” (See Annex 3) . The specific recommendations on each of the topics were adopted by the Conference as a whole and are included in the “SADC Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS” (see chapter III.D).

#### ***4. OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE***

The intense deliberations and hard work during the two and half days of the Conference, proved highly productive and culminated in the adoption of no less than 2 major conference documents and a total of 45 specific recommendations for regional action. Both conference documents are part of this publication.

The Conference “Statement” outlines the essential elements which should underlie any regional policy on HIV/AIDS in the region. It endorses a strong commitment to non-discrimination against people with AIDS, emphasises the need to mobilise all of society in tackling HIV/AIDS and advocates the urgent integration of responses to HIV/AIDS into the different regional policies for social and economic development.

The “SADC Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS” provides a framework for action aimed at minimising the spread of HIV/AIDS and mitigating its impact in the Southern African Region. At one level, the framework enables the identification of areas for regional support to national actions, at another level it identifies regional level interventions where an added value exists. Attached to the framework for action are the specific proposals for action which were identified during the conference as priority areas for action.

Both documents demonstrate how the Conference has opened new areas and possibilities for increasing regional collaboration on very important subjects such as employment, the mining sector, education and essential drugs.

## ***5. FOLLOW UP TO THE CONFERENCE.***

Although co-organised by the SADC Secretariat and the European Commission, with the support of the Irish President in Office of the European Union, the Conference was essentially a Southern African centred event. The role of the EU appropriately and deliberately aimed at being supportive and enabling. Hence, the recommendation and policy proposals for the Southern African region were framed by representatives from the region. This aimed at ensuring the formulation of a SADC response, for implementation by SADC Institutions.

As stipulated in the procedure for follow-up included in the ' Plan of Action', both Conference documents will be submitted for approval to the SADC Ministers for Human Resource Development and subsequently to the SADC Council of Ministers.

The Conference was correctly billed as a "first step" and many more steps are likely to be needed before the full "SADC Plan of Action " can effectively be put in motion. However, as some delegates pointed out, priorities have been set, methods have been identified, alliances have been made and some of the actions can be initiated immediately.

Such a high level of motivation and commitment can only bode well for the future of a joint regional response and the implementation of the Conference's recommendations. Combined with the political commitment made by the SADC representatives at the Conference and the offer of continued support for this process by the European Union, progress is certain.

## II. STATEMENT ON REGIONAL RESPONSES TO HIV/AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

As prepared by the  
EU/SADC CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL APPROACHES  
TO HIV/AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA  
Lilongwe, December 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 1996

Preamble

We, the participants,  
recognising that

- \* HIV/AIDS concerns all people without distinction
- \* the HIV/AIDS epidemic by its magnitude is set to hinder the social and economic development of the region as a whole
- \* HIV/AIDS exacerbates existing weaknesses in social and economic development and adds to the already high burden caused by other diseases
- \* poverty, lack of education, mobility, discrimination and the low status of women are contributing factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS and its consequences
- \* HIV/AIDS particularly in relation to employment has given rise to additional reasons and justification for dealing with rights and responsibilities of workers and employers, including issues of production and productivity and human capital formation
- \* various anti-viral drug therapies are becoming increasingly effective, but are far too expensive to the vast majority of people in Southern Africa, and that even the provision of basic medicines is a challenge to some countries in the region

and agreeing that

- \* the impact of and response to HIV/AIDS is a cross- and multi-sectoral issue which requires efforts and commitment for action beyond the health sector
- \* a joint regional response towards HIV/AIDS will greatly enhance the effectiveness of actions at a national level
- \* collaboration on HIV/AIDS is a regional priority – which requires the highest political commitment within the region and the support of the region's main development partners

**Hereby state that we will continue our collaboration on HIV/AIDS in the pursuance of the following basic objectives:**

- \* To minimise effectively the number of new infections in the Southern African region
- \* To mitigate the social and economic impact of the disease, including the problem of orphaned children
- \* To increase the understanding of HIV/AIDS and possible responses, and to monitor and evaluate progress at containing the spread of the disease at a regional level
- \* To ensure the integration of responses to HIV/AIDS in the different regional policies on social and economic development
- \* To guarantee basic human rights to HIV/AIDS affected persons as they are or should be to all citizens
- \* To ensure that responses be based on solidarity, respect for and support to people affected by HIV/AIDS, and are part of a much broader process of social change aimed at redressing structures of inequality, intolerance and injustice.
- \* To enhance collaboration on HIV/AIDS between the SADC and its development partners

**Recognise that in order to achieve those objectives, there is need to:**

- \* ensure that regional initiatives are complementary to and supportive of national approaches and actions in the SADC Member States
- \* ensure a continued dialogue at a regional level in order to ensure the necessary policy coherence and political commitment required for the effective implementation of regional actions.
- \* mobilise and involve all of society inter-alia – the public and the private sectors, community based-organisations and people living with HIV/AIDS – in a spirit of partnership throughout the Southern African region
- \* ensure that awareness programmes do not only focus on the risk behaviour of individuals, but also on the social and structural determinants of exposure to risk, including poverty and lack of education
- \* develop a regional policy framework which guarantees equal protection under the law for persons living with HIV/AIDS in the whole SADC region

**Consider the above to be essential elements for any regional response to HIV/AIDS and take the responsibility of furthering the objectives of this statement as part of continued cooperation and dialogue within the Southern African Development Community and with the European Union and other cooperating partners.**

### III. SADC PLAN OF ACTION ON HIV/AIDS

As prepared by  
THE EU-SADC CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL APPROACHES  
TO HIV/AIDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA  
Lilongwe, December 4-6th 1996

HIV/AIDS knows no boundaries between countries or peoples. It is one of the daunting problems shared by developed and developing countries alike, where many people are unable to realise their potential because of poverty, unemployment, discrimination, poor facilities for education and health, and slum conditions in crowded cities. This is also true in the Southern African region. In this context, all the countries in the region are taking multi-sectoral action concerning HIV/AIDS. These national actions require regional exchange and support as well as enhanced regional actions.

Regional cooperation and action already exist in the SADC region. The HIV/AIDS initiatives described in the statement of the conference on HIV/AIDS and this programme of action are to be viewed as an integral and important part of this regional collaboration.

It is increasingly recognised, generally and in the SADC region, that HIV/AIDS is not just a health issue and that it requires coordinated social and economic policies, both at a national and a regional level.

Countries have different strategies and policies on income distribution, worker protection, structure and content of educational systems, gender roles, etc. Nonetheless, countries increasingly interact and benefit from joint actions. This is especially true for controlling HIV/AIDS.

Social policies can result in (non)voluntary mass migration thereby increasing the risk for the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The summary of proposals for action, here presented, recognise the need for regional cooperation as well as the challenge to respond through regional action in relation to HIV in Southern Africa.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

- To strengthen initiatives dealing with HIV/AIDS through regional support aimed at enhancing national actions as well as through specific regional activities.
- To ensure and implement follow-up for the action programmes agreed upon.

#### **FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

The following framework for action at a national and regional level will assist in minimising the spread of HIV/AIDS in the region and in alleviating its consequences.

#### A. *AREAS FOR REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ACTION*

1. Exchange information about technical and institutional capacities within the region on experiences in relation to HIV/AIDS as a cross-sectoral issue.
2. Strengthen the development of those capacities where necessary within the region.
3. Facilitate the process for governments in the SADC region to quickly enact legislation to implement “the code of practices on HIV/AIDS and employment” agreed for the workplace in relation to HIV. The code of practices should also be reviewed for concerns within specific sectors such as mining.

#### B. *AREAS FOR INTERVENTIONS WITH AN ADDED VALUE IF DEALT WITH THROUGH REGIONAL JOINT ACTION*

1. Develop and perform joint studies and research relevant and beneficial for the region and develop a financing system for this at regional level
  - Support and conduct studies on developing appropriate minimum treatment strategies and protocols to deal with people with STDs, TB, other opportunistic infections and HIV.
  - Perform analytical studies and develop an action programme to look into relevant and priority aspects of HIV/AIDS and mobility and migration. Develop a framework for more comprehensive cooperation on migration, mobility and the rights of migrant workers, traders and, in general, people crossing borders in the region.
  - Develop a framework for allocation of funds to priority research in the region.
2. Develop, enhance and harmonise data collection on HIV/AIDS in the region and increase the capacity of existing monitoring and data collection systems, such as the SADC regional information technological centre, in order to enable policy makers to make informed decisions.
3. Organise enhanced skills and professional training and human resource development through support for a network of training facilities in the region.
4. Develop shared production capacities for media and written materials for information and education on HIV/AIDS.
5. Facilitate manufacturing and harmonised quality control systems for drugs and condoms, and facilitate purchasing through opening of markets for products produced at national level.
6. Promote investment in sectors of relevance for the region (for example tourism) for the development of a regional information and education programme about HIV/AIDS.

#### C. *FOLLOW UP*

As a result of this Conference, HIV/AIDS issues will need to be integrated into different SADC sectoral programmes.

To this end, proceedings of the Conference together with the Statement and Plan of Action will be forwarded to all delegates to the Conference by the SADC Secretariat.



The outcome of this Conference will be submitted for approval to the Ministers responsible for Human Resource Development.

The Minister responsible for Human Resource Development will present recommendations for consideration by the SADC Council of Ministers meeting in August 1997.

Following the decision of the SADC Council of Ministers, implementation will be under the responsibility of the different sectors involved: initiative for specific proposals, coordination and monitoring will be ensured by the SADC coordinator for the sector concerned with the assistance of the SADC Secretariat.

Global monitoring and reporting will be secured by the SADC coordinator designated as responsible for Health with the support of the SADC secretariat.

#### *D. SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR ACTION*

The following proposals are commended for special consideration and action.

##### *On Employment.*

- \* The adoption, implementation and promotion of a regional code of conduct on HIV/AIDS and employment, and the development of guidelines on practical steps to assist employers with HIV, i.e. education of employers and employees regarding non-discrimination, clear policies on sick leave and improvement of health facilities. People with HIV/AIDS should be actively included in this process.
- \* The adoption of a social charter of general and employment rights that provides a context for the specific issue of HIV/AIDS.
- \* The collection, inclusion and use of relevant HIV/AIDS data and research related to employment in a regional data bank and resource base.
- \* Identification and reduction of work related situations leading to the spread of HIV, particularly those involving cross border movement.
- \* The assessment of the employment, production and social security and economic impact of HIV/AIDS on productive sectors in Southern Africa, linking macro-sectoral, company and household impacts and the identification and dissemination of appropriate intervention. The assessment of impact should include that on existing labour markets and employment policies and take into consideration the specific needs of employers and employees and include issues of profitability, competitiveness and human capital.
- \* The identification and development of strategies to mitigate the impact of AIDS on employment, this should include:
  - appropriate training/retraining strategies
  - social security strategies
  - strategies for meeting the medical and employee benefit costs and needs
  - production and productivity strategiesThese should take cognisance of the current structural adjustment programmes.
- \* Introduction into all SADC human resource development training programmes of aspects of HIV/AIDS education and management of the impact of HIV/AIDS.

- \* The development, distribution and sharing of information at a regional level regarding essential components of successful workplace based HIV prevention programmes.

### ***On Mining***

All of the actions identified under employment also apply to employment in the mining sector, in addition the following were identified as being of specific concern:

- \* The development of a regional approach to collecting, assessing and sharing relevant data, eg. on HIV prevalence in the sector, impacts on health care services and costs, impacts on productivity.
- \* Develop regional guidelines to assist the training and retraining of health care workers (doctors, nurses, etc) covering the issues such as counselling, TB and STD treatment, HIV prevention, and health advice to employees living with HIV/AIDS.
- \* The development of guidelines/standard protocols for the treatment of HIV positive employees, especially regarding TB and STDs.
- \* Encourage research into factors that are believed to contribute to the vulnerability of mine-workers, such as migrant labour and hostels.
- \* The development of regional guidelines on intervention and actions related to HIV/AIDS counselling, prevention, insurance, management, on site family housing, etc.

### ***On Education***

- \* Ensure that any political commitment to HIV/AIDS education is matched by a determination to commit funds for these activities.
- \* Involve young people (including those infected with HIV) in the development of HIV/AIDS education materials, and the development of a system to facilitate the interchange of such materials throughout the region.
- \* The development of a regional network of Anti-Aids clubs which would be established to help prevent and mitigate the impact of HIV infection.
- \* The development of and advocacy for a set of minimum acceptable standards and approaches in education (both formal and informal) that will address the issues concerning human and sexual interaction.
- \* The establishment of a process to review existing curricula from a gender perspective and the strengthening of actions aimed at the education/empowerment of girls.
- \* The development of a regional paradigm for life skills education for youth which would commence at an appropriate age, involve the training of teachers, focus on the development of responsibility, facilitate the empowerment of girls, and emphasise the importance of abstinence/safe sexual practice.
- \* The establishment of a mechanism that would encourage the evaluation of existing HIV/AIDS education programmes and facilitate the incorporation of the accrued experience of behaviour change programmes into any existing or new initiatives.

- \* The adoption of a regional approach to educational research with a view to addressing the following:
  - (i) Identifying existing research needs in the SADC region i.e. impact of HIV on: teacher training; reviewing existing pedagogical practice; strengthening policy development; developing new curricula;
  - (ii) Issuing some control over research being conducted in the region; sharing information with other SADC members; coordinating research activity;
  - (iii) Establishing a regional institution for conducting/directing quality research in accordance with regional needs.
- \* Encourage initiatives throughout the Southern African Region for educating people on how to live with HIV/AIDS from a health, social and cultural perspective.
- \* Strengthen initiatives aimed at ensuring that vulnerable children (including orphans) are included in the formal education system.
- \* The encouragement of exchanges at a regional level of educational materials (including radio and TV programmes) on HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa.

### ***On Tourism***

- \* Produce standardised health information on a range of diseases, including HIV, to travellers on a regional basis and develop a mechanism for regional cooperation on production and dissemination of this information.
- \* Cooperate at a regional level on issues that affect the health of travellers such as safe blood and immunisation.
- \* Reduce the vulnerability of low income travellers -especially women through a range of measures aimed at increasing their security and decreasing the possibility of their exploitation. This should include regional action to speed up movement across national borders.
- \* Review the terms and conditions of workers in the industry and where appropriate ensure measures to improve these and ensure the application of the regional code of practice for employment.
- \* Facilitate the education and training of employees on a regional basis to take account of the impact of HIV and the need for cost-effective regional training.
- \* Provide STD facilities in tourist areas and ensure the sharing of results of this on a regional basis.

### ***On medical drugs and the treatment of people with HIV/AIDS***

- \* Development of a regional financial and cost sharing policy for essential drugs including those for STDS and HIV/AIDS.
- \* Development of regional guidelines for the training of health care workers in the public and private sectors regarding the best practices in the management of HIV/AIDS, STDs and TB.
- \* Development of harmonisation of regional drug distribution and dispensing policies.

- \* Establishment of a mechanism for regional co-operation on procurement, distribution, storage and quality assurance of drugs (for example through the standardisation of tendering, registration and quality control procedures).
- \* Setting up of appropriate regional bodies such as a drug policy co-ordinating committee to assist information exchange on minimum standards for new drugs, treatments, and clinical trials for STDs, TB, HIV and related diseases, and establish quality control linked with TB.
- \* Initiation of research into current and projected regional drug requirements and the cost effectiveness of making available drugs such as AZT to pregnant women at public health facilities.
- \* Investigation of joint measures aimed at encouraging greater regional production and trade in affordable drugs to make them accessible throughout SADC, through for example:
  - tax reductions on raw materials and essential drugs
  - reviewing customs barriers to trade.
  - tax incentives for essential drug production.
  - standardised open tendering procedures with a preference for local manufacturers.
- \* Ensure a commitment to non-discrimination against people with HIV in the provision of treatment.
- \* Encourage, through negotiation, pharmaceutical companies to sell essential drugs at minimum prices.

***On the collection of data and exchanges of information in the region.***

- \* Build data collection, analysis and dissemination into all SADC sectors and programmes.
- \* Ensure the collection of data with a view to using it for planning, policy formulation and implementation at all levels – from regional to local.
- \* Ensure that problems with HIV and AIDS data in terms of availability and representativeness are addressed.
- \* Establish an instrument for joint monitoring of the epidemic (harmonised regional management information systems) developed from already existing systems and including institutional development.
- \* Develop actions for training in data collection, analysis, management and dissemination and use of data, building on existing institutions where feasible both regionally and internationally.
- \* Develop a method for the regional collection of data across sectors and countries. The health sector can, for example, be involved in vital registration (birth and death certificates) for other sectors.



# ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1: CONFERENCE AGENDA

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANNEX 3: OTHER AVAILABLE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS



ANNEX 1:

*EU/SADC CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL APPROACHES  
TO AIDS/HIV IN SOUTHERN AFRICA*

*AGENDA*

*WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1996*

- 08.00: Registration and welcoming of participants.
- 09.00 - 10.30: Official opening of the Conference
- Opening address by H.E. Mr. ALEKE BANDA, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, on behalf of the Malawi Government
- Statements by
- By MR. L.B. MONYAKE, Deputy Executive Secretary, on behalf of the SADC Secretariat
  - MRS. D. DELLICOUR, Head of the Health/AIDS Unit, on behalf of the Commission of the European Union
  - Dr. OLIVE SHISANA, Director General for Health, South Africa, representing the Presidency of the Southern African Development Community
  - H.E. Mr. BRIAN O'SHEA, Minister of State for Health, Ireland, President in Office of the European Union
- 10.30 - 10.45: Break
- 10.45 - 11.45: Statement by Mercy Makhalemele, Person living with AIDS (South Africa)  
Statement from the perspective of women in Southern African, Mrs. Sheila Tlou, Chairperson of the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (Botswana).
- 11.45 - 12.00: Introduction on the structure and working method of the Conference by the EU Conference Chair, Mr. Tom Mooney, Assistant Secretary for Health, Ireland
- 12.00 - 12.30: Presentation of the General Background Conference paper by the SADC Conference Chair, Mr. Avertino Barreto, Deputy National Health Director, Mozambique
- 12.30 - 14.00: Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.30: PARALLEL SESSIONS ON:
- \* MINING (venue: Big Conference Room)
- Chair: SADC, Mr. A Barreto, Mozambique  
Facilitator: The SADC Sector Coordinator for Mining, Mr. C.J. Chanda, Zambia  
2 Keynote Speakers:



- Presentation from the perspective of workers (and their families) by Mr Alf Muheua – Vice-President National Union of Namibian Mineworkers
- Presentation from the perspective of the Mining Companies, by Ms Jennie Crisp, Anglo American

DISCUSSION

and

\* EMPLOYMENT (venue: Small Conference Room)

Chair: EU, Mr. Tom Mooney, Ireland

Facilitator: The SADC Sector Coordinator for Employment, Mr. Nyimba, Zambia

2 Keynote Speakers:

- Presentation from the perspective of Insurance Companies by Mr Macdonald Choara, General Manager, Medical Aid, Zimbabwe
- Presentation on the perspectives of Employers by Mr. Ian Gilbertson, Senior Medical Officer Mhulume Sugar Estates, Swaziland

DISCUSSION

15.30 - 15.45: Break

15.45 - 16.30: CONTINUATION OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

\* MINING

Presentation by the SADC Sector Coordinator for Mining of items to be included into the “Statement on regional responses to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa” and the “SADC Plan of Action”

DISCUSSION

and

\* EMPLOYMENT

Presentation by the SADC Sector Coordinator for Employment of items to be included into the “Statement on regional responses to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa” and the “SADC Plan of Action”

Presentation by Mr. Russell Kerkhoven, SAFAIDS, Zimbabwe, on Human Resource Development, Production and Productivity.

DISCUSSION

16.30 - 17.15: CONTINUATION OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

\* MINING

Finalisation of the elements to be included in the “Statement” and the “Plan of Action”

Summing up of main conclusions and closing of the session on mining

and

\* EMPLOYMENT

Finalisation of the elements to be included in the “Statement” and the “Plan of Action”

Summing up of main conclusions and closing of the session on Employment

17.15 - 17.30: BREAK

17.30 - 18.30: PLENARY SESSION (venue: Big Conference Room)

Chair: SADC, Representative from South Africa  
With report back by the facilitators on the conclusions and elements to be included on both sectors in the Statement and the Plan of Action.

*THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1996*

08.00 - 09.30: PARALLEL SESSIONS ON

\* TOURISM (venue: Small Conference Room)

Chair: EU, Mr. Michael Lyons, Ireland

Facilitator: The SADC Sector Coordinator for Tourism, Mr. Govinda, Mauritius

2 keynote speakers:

- Presentation from a "Tourist promotion" perspective by Mr. Fowdur, Principle Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Mauritius
- Presentation from the perspective of the regional travellers by Mrs Ntokoane, outgoing SADC sector coordinator for Tourism, Lesotho

DISCUSSION

and

\* EDUCATION (venue: Big Conference Room)

Chair: SADC, Mr. A Barreto, Mozambique

Facilitator: The SADC Sector Coordinator for Human Resource Development, Mrs Nkambule, Swaziland

2 Keynote Speakers:

- Presentation on the perspective of the education sector, by Mrs Sheila Tlou, University of Botswana
- Presentation on the perspective of youth in Southern Africa, by Naomi Chimimba, Anti-AIDS club member, Family Health Trust Zambia.

DISCUSSION

09.30 - 09.45: BREAK

09.45 - 10.30: CONTINUATION OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

\* TOURISM

Presentation by the SADC Sector Coordinator for Tourism of items to be included into the "Statement on regional responses to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa" and the "SADC Plan of Action"

DISCUSSION

and

\* EDUCATION

Presentation by the SADC Sector Coordinator for Education of items to be included into the "Statement" and the "SADC Plan of Action"

DISCUSSION

10.30 - 11.15: CONTINUATION OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

\* TOURISM

Finalisation of the elements to be included in the "Statement" and the "Plan of Action"

Summing up of main conclusions and closing of the session on Tourism

and

\* EDUCATION

Finalisation of the elements to be included in the “Statement” and the “Plan of Action”

Summing up of main conclusions and closing of the session on Education

11.15 - 11.30: BREAK

11.30 - 12.30: PLENARY SESSION (venue: Big Conference Room)

Chair: EU, Mr. Tom Mooney, Ireland

With report back by the facilitators on the conclusions and elements to be included on both sectors in the Statement and the Agenda for Action.

12.30 - 14.00: LUNCH

14.00 - 15.30: PARALLEL SESSIONS ON DRUGS AND DATA

\* MEDICAL DRUGS (venue: Small Conference Room)

Chair: EU, Mr. Michael Lyons, Ireland

Facilitator: Dr. Avertino Barreto, Ministry of Health, Mozambique

2 Keynote Speakers:

– Presentation on the perspective of the public health care sector, by Dr. Kipuyo, Ministry of Health, Tanzania

– Presentation on the perspective of the drugs companies in the region, by Mr. Celestine Kumire, Manager, Pharmanova, Zimbabwe.

DISCUSSION

and

\* DATA (venue: Big Conference Room)

Chair: SADC, representative from South Africa

Facilitator: The Deputy SADC Sector Coordinator for Culture and Information, Mr. Eduardo Siteo, Mozambique

2 Keynote Speakers:

– Presentation on perspectives on data collection, Dr. Peter Way, US Bureau of Census

– Presentation on perspectives on the use of data in policy making, by Mr. Elliott Odirile, Chief Statistician, SADC Statistics Committee

DISCUSSION

15.30 - 15.45: BREAK

15.45 - 16.30: CONTINUATION OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

\* DRUGS

Presentation by the facilitator of items to be included into the “Statement on regional responses to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa” and the “SADC Plan of Action”

DISCUSSION

and

\* DATA

Presentation by the Deputy SADC Sector Coordinator for Culture and

Information on items to be included into the “Statement on regional responses to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa” and the “SADC Plan of Action”  
DISCUSSION

16.30 - 17.15: CONTINUATION OF PARALLEL SESSIONS

\* DRUGS

Finalisation of the elements to be included in the “Statement” and the “Plan of Action”

Summing up of main conclusions and closing of the session on Drugs

and

\* DATA

Finalisation of the elements to be included in the “Statement” and the “Plan of Action”

Summing up of main conclusions and closing of the session on data

17.15 - 17.30: Break

17.30 - 18.30: PLENARY SESSION (venue: Big Conference Room)

Chair: EU, Mr. Michael Lyons, Ireland

With report back by the facilitators on the conclusions and elements to be included on both sectors in the Statement and the Plan of Action.

*FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1996*

09.00 - 10.30: Presentation of the “Statement on regional responses to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa” and the “SADC Plan of Action”

(venue: Big Conference Room)

Chair: SADC, Representative from Mozambique

Presentation by Mr. Monyake, Deputy Secretary General SADC Secretariat

DISCUSSION

10.30 - 11.45: BREAK

11.45 - 12.45: Adoption of the Statement and SADC Plan of Action

and

Closing of the Conference and statements by

– Mr. L.B. MONYAKE, Deputy Executive Secretary, SADC Secretariat.

– Mrs. D. DELLICOUR, Head of the Health/AIDS Unit, Commission of the European Union

– H.E. Mr. BRIAN O’SHEA, Minister of State for Health, Ireland, President in office of the European Union

– H.E. Mr. ZILITO CHIBAMBO, Minister for Health, Malawi, on behalf of the Southern African Development Community.

13.00: PRESS CONFERENCE

## ANNEX 2:

### *LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*

#### **SADC Secretariat**

MONYAKE L.B., Deputy Executive Secretary, SADC Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana  
KALEBE T.A., Chief Economist, SADC Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana  
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##### **ANGOLA**

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RADIBE Rebasele, Chief Economist, Gaborone  
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TLOU Sheila Dinotshe, Senior Lecturer University of Botswana, President of the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa, Gaborone.

##### **LESOTHO**

NCHOLU Tselis G., Deputy Principal Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning  
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**IRELAND (Presidency in Office of the European Union)**

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CORR F., Development Cooperation, Department of Foreign Affairs  
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O'NEILL Vincent, Consultant, Ministry of Health  
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ANNEX 3:

***OTHER AVAILABLE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS***

- \* Pre-Conference Background Paper for the Joint EU/SADC Conference on HIV/AIDS (Malawi, 4-6th December 1996)
- \* Proceedings and Background Papers on Regional Action, EU-SADC Conference on HIV/AIDS (Malawi, 4-6th December 1996)
- \* Speeches by the various keynote speakers during the opening and closing sessions of the EU/SADC Conference on HIV/AIDS (Malawi, 4-6th December 1996)

These documents are available from:

In Southern Africa:

The SADC Secretariat  
Human Resource Development Unit  
Private Bag 0095

Gaborone  
BOTSWANA

Fax: (267) 372.848

In Europe:

European Commission  
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Report coordinated and edited by  
Inge Van Den Bussche

**The EU-SADC Conference on "Regional Approaches to HIV/AIDS" was held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 4 to 6 December 1996, as part of the dialogue between the European Union and the Southern African Development Community that was agreed at the Berlin Conference in September 1994. The Conference was jointly organised by the SADC Secretariat and the European Commission, with the support of the Irish Government in its capacity as President in Office of the European Union.**

**The Conference took place at a time when the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) have been increasingly recognised in the Southern African region as a major problem with potentially profound implications for the further development of the region as a whole. High population movements, high levels of poverty and rapid urbanisation within Southern Africa underline the need for a regional strategy aimed at strengthening initiatives on HIV/AIDS. At the same time, the already high level of existing cooperation amongst the countries in Southern Africa and the increased moves towards regional integration under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) provide the necessary modus operandi for such a regional strategy.**

**As a first step towards the identification of a regional response to HIV/AIDS the Conference set out to define a policy framework for actions on HIV/AIDS in the Southern African region. The objective of such a policy framework : to strengthen initiatives both through regional support aimed at enhancing national actions and through specific regional activities.**

**The outcome of the Conference - in the form of a "Statement on regional responses to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa" and the "SADC Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS"- provides a valuable beginning for a SADC regional policy framework on HIV/AIDS. In addition to the Conference outcome, this publication provides a summary of the Conference background and proceedings and aims to be a tool in the follow-up of the Conference recommendations.**