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**Regional Consultative Meeting on SADC Regional Gender Monitoring
Tool**

Johannesburg, South Africa
24th -25th August 2009

Aide Memoire

1. Background

The Economic Commission for Africa Gender and Women in Development Section, ECA Southern Africa Office in collaboration with Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Secretariat will convene a regional consultative roundtable meeting of experts to review the draft SADC Regional Gender Monitoring (RGM) on the 24th to 25th September 2009 in Johannesburg South Africa. This meeting is in line with implementation of the Multi Year Programme of Collaboration between ECA-SA and SADC.

Gender inequality remains one of the main challenges facing Southern African countries. The inequalities manifest themselves in women's limited access to, and control over productive resources, social services and socio-economic opportunities and low representation in decision-making spheres. The 13th Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa held under the theme "*Accelerating Africa's Development to meet the MDGs: Challenges and the Way Forward for Southern Africa*" recommended that efforts aimed at scaling up progress in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 should include strategies to enhance women's participation, leadership and empowerment.

In August 2008, SADC heads of state and government signed a SADC Gender and development Protocol. A historic instrument that elevates the commitments made in the SADC Declaration into concrete, time-bound and legally binding actions that accelerate efforts to achieve gender equality. The protocol seeks to integrate gender into development and actively close the gender gaps that have a bearing on poverty alleviation and attainment of Millennium Development Goals. It provides for empowerment of women, elimination of discrimination and seeks to achieve gender equality and equity through the development and implementation of gender responsive legislation, policies and programmes. The protocol harmonizes the various commitments and declarations to which SADC member countries are signatory to and provides legal and policy frameworks to enhance implementation of programmes in order deepen regional integration, sustainable development and community building.

Against this background, the ECA Gender and Women in Development Section, ECA-SA, and SADC-GU have jointly developed a regional gender monitoring tool (RGM) to track progress on the implementation of regional instruments that SADC member states have made towards gender equality in their respective countries.

2. Objectives and Scope of the Workshop

The objective of the workshop is to support SADC Gender Unit's on going efforts to facilitate, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the objectives of the SADC Gender and Development Protocol as well as other regional and global gender instruments to which member states are party.

The workshop will specifically;

- Present the Draft RGM for stakeholder review and validation on relevance, adequacy and focus in facilitating, monitoring and tracking progress made towards achievement of gender equality in Southern Africa.
- Build Capacity of Stakeholders to use the RGM for monitoring progress made towards implementation of the SADC Protocol

3. Workshop Content

- 1) Presentations will be followed by plenary and group discussions to enable stakeholders an in-put into the draft RGM; Presentations will be structured as follows;
- 2) Background to development of RGM, what is it meant to achieve?
- 3) SADC RGM; Usage, Scope, Indicators and Issues
- 4) Plenary and Group Discussions
- 5) Plenary Discussions

6) Conclusions/Recommendations and the Way Forward

4. Expected Outcomes

A Stakeholder validated RGMT as a tool that SADC Member States will use to monitor, evaluate and keep track of progress made by Member States in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in SADC.

5. Participation

Participants to this meeting are expected to be experts from selected National Gender Machineries (SADC Troika Member States), regional gender and women's rights organizations and representatives from UN agencies. ECA-SA will work closely with the SADC Secretariat Gender Unit and will internally coordinate with ACGSD at ECA Headquarters in organizing the meeting.

ECA-SA will cover the costs of a round trip economy class air ticket and daily subsistence allowance for invited participants at the prevailing United Nations rate for the meeting days.

6. Logistical Arrangements

Ground logistics, including hotel reservations will be provided to invitees. Participants are advised to provide details of any changes to their travel itinerary to ECA-SA and SADC Gender Unit in good time. It will be the responsibility of participants to organize their entry visas prior to their travel. The working language for the workshop will be English and French.

7. Contacts

All communication on the Workshop should be addressed to:

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