



FUNCTIONS AND ROLES OF A REGIONAL SPS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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INTRODUCTION

- SADC was established at the Summit of Heads of State and Government on 17 August 1992 in Windhoek, Namibia.
- SADC currently composed of 14 member states, namely, Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
- SADC Secretariat in Gaborone, Botswana
- SADC Mission: *“To promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient productive systems, deeper co-operation and integration, good governance, and durable peace and security, so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy*

SADC Member States



SADC Institutional Framework.

- ◉ The **Council of Ministers** is responsible for overseeing the functioning and development of SADC and ensuring that policies are properly implemented. This also provides the context for the development of the SPS CC in the SADC region.
- ◉ **The Integrated Committee of Ministers** (ICM) is the clearing house for the Council of Ministers regarding all matters.
- ◉ **SADC Secretariat** is the executive wing of SADC and is responsible for strategic planning and management of SADC programmes including statistical programmes.

The SPS Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade

- The SPS Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade was approved by the SADC Committee of Ministers of Trade on 12 July 2008 in Lusaka, Zambia.
- Article 14 of the SPS Annex on Administration establishes a SADC Sanitary and Phytosanitary Coordinating Committee (SPS CC) to promote the objectives and monitor the implementation of the SPS Annex.

Objectives of the Anex/SPS CC

- ◉ Protection of human, animal, plant life or health in Member States
- ◉ Member States' implementation of the WTO agreement
- ◉ Technical capacity to implement and monitor SPS measures
- ◉ Regional forum for addressing/resolving SPS matters

SADC Regional SPS Coordinating Committee

- Formed under article 14 of the Annex by member states comprising representatives of each National Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
- Chaired by the SADC Chair
- All its decisions have to be on consensus

Administrative Structure

Three technical committees

- ◉ Food Safety Technical Committee
 - ◉ Livestock Technical Committee
 - ◉ Plant Protection Technical
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- ◉ Committee may decide to establish other technical committees or ad hoc expert working groups as necessary

SADC SPS CC Committee Members

- ◉ Serve as focal points and liaison between the national and regional coordinating committees
- ◉ coordinate proactive participation in the SADC SPS CC in the Member States



Responsibilities of the Committee Members

- Contribute to the objectives of the SADC SPS CC
- Represent their Member State and National Coordinating Committee during the SADC SPS CC meetings
- To constitute specialized technical committees and working groups
- To be eligible/available to assume Chairmanship or Vice-Chairmanship
- To present proposals for discussion

Responsibilities of the Committee Members

- To receive copies and have access to SADC SPS CC documents
- To provide technical and administrative support to the Chair and Secretariat
- To promote the adoption of the resolutions during Committee meetings
- To comply with these rules of procedures and other applicable procedures.

Responsibilities of Chair

- Preparation, in consultation with the SADC Secretariat, of the agenda for meetings
- Chair Committee meetings
- Ensure follow ups on resolutions agreed to by the SADC SPS CC
- Provide leadership for the smooth operation of the SADC SPS CC

Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

- The representative of the MS chairing SADC in a particular year shall be the Chair of the SADC SPS CC.
- There shall be two Vice-Chairs.
 - The representative of the MS, which Chaired SADC during the preceding year and that of the MS, which will Chair SADC the subsequent year shall be the Vice Chairs. The Vice- Chairs shall assist the Chair in undertaking his or her duties

Roles of Regional SPS Coordinating Committee

- The SADC SPS CC shall promote transparency in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including overseeing the implementation of the SADC notification and counter notification process, with a view of identifying and resolving sanitary or phytosanitary problems between Member States in order to prevent formal disputes.
- Will act as a consultative forum for promoting the objectives of this Annex and for strengthening cooperation between the regulatory agencies having responsibility for sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- Will report to the SADC Trade Negotiating Forum

Specific Functions

- a) To act as a forum for consultations and exchange of technical information relating to sanitary or phytosanitary issues;
- b) Reviewing progress and monitoring the implementation of this Annex;
- c) Cooperation and collaboration in the transfer of expertise in sanitary or phytosanitary issues amongst Member State;
- d) Overseeing the implementation of SADC regional programs related to sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- e) Collaboration among interested Member States on specific sanitary or phytosanitary projects;

Specific Functions

- f) Identification of technical problems which might form the subject of joint projects on sanitary or phytosanitary issues;
- Coordination, endorsement and harmonisation of SADC regional training and development activities in sanitary and phytosanitary related areas;
- h) Provision of information on regional sanitary and phytosanitary related resources and services;
- i) Coordinating the region's liaison with corresponding regional and international organisations in the field of sanitary and phytosanitary protection;

Specific Functions

- j) Coordinate, liaise and participate in SADC SQAM structures as necessary to facilitate accomplishment of standardization, conformity assessment and accreditation needs in regional sanitary and phytosanitary issues;
- k) Establishment of communication channels and dissemination of information on regional sanitary and phytosanitary resources and services through the national enquiry points;
- l) Establishment of Expert Working Groups in specific fields related to sanitary or phytosanitary Measures;

Specific Functions

- m) Organisation, coordination and promotion of regional conferences, workshops, seminars and exhibitions on subjects relevant to any SADC regional programme related to sanitary or phytosanitary standards;
- n) Participation in international and regional standards setting organizations, where possible and coordinate efforts to present common SADC positions in relevant international organizations;
- o) Promotion and facilitation of greater private sector/industry participation in SADC sanitary and phytosanitary related activities;

Specific Functions

- ◉ p) Follow up international and regional developments on sanitary and phytosanitary measures that might have potential consequences on trade of SADC Member States and submit regular updates to Members through the SADC Trade Negotiating Forum.
- ◉ p) Develop the guidelines and procedures for determining the equivalence of sanitary or phytosanitary measures;
- ◉ q) Develop guidelines and procedures for determining the equivalence of risk assessment techniques and methodologies; and
- ◉ r) Develop procedures to assist and monitor the process of harmonisation among Member States,

Conclusion

- The success of the SADC SPC CC will depend on the responsiveness of the national SPS committees of the member states.
- It is important that SADC engages in capacity building and awareness creation in member states so that the ANNEX primary objectives are quickly implemented.

THANK YOU

OBRIGADO

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