



SADC INDUSTRIALIZATION WEEK 2025 8th edition

JULY 28 - AUGUST 1, 2025,
ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR



CONCEPT NOTE





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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. The SADC region contains a diverse range of natural resources, including a majority of key minerals for feedstocks in regional manufacturing, agriculture, construction, power, and other sectors. Nevertheless, the SADC region has not been able to INDUSTRIALISE and achieve structural transformation. The share of manufacturing to GDP for the SADC region has declined from 17.6% in 1990 to 13% in 2013.
2. Due to a lack of productive capacity, increasing intra-SADC trade through the SADC Free Trade Area has not been possible, as the value of intra-SADC trade has remained very low, at only 17% of total SADC trade. Exports from the region remain dominated by unprocessed or minimally processed products, mainly from the agricultural and mineral sectors providing very low-value returns.
3. In light of the above, the 34th SADC Heads of State and Government Summit, in **August 2014** in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe adopted the Summit Theme: **SADC Strategy for Economic Transformation: Leveraging the Region's Diverse Resources for Sustainable Economic and Social Development through Value Addition and Beneficiation.** This theme reflected the urgent need for beneficiation and value addition to the region's natural resources. Summit also directed the Secretariat to develop the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap.
4. The SADC Industrialisation Strategy (SIS) and Roadmap (2015-2063) was approved in Harare, Zimbabwe, in **April 2015**. To give impetus to the Industrialisation process, Summit also approved the Revised Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030, which prioritizes Industrial Development and market integration and positions Industrialisation at the epicenter of the region's economic agenda.
5. Summit also directed the Secretariat to develop a Costed Action Plan for implementing the Industrialisation Strategy. The Action Plan was approved in March 2017.
6. The SIS seeks to economically and technologically transform the economy of the SADC region through beneficiation and value addition to the region's diverse resources. It seeks to address the development challenges of the region by progressively moving from a factor-driven development phase to an investment and efficiency-driven phase, and ultimately to a high regional economy driven by knowledge, innovation, and business sophistication.
7. The SIS is anchored on three pillars: **Industrialisation, Competitiveness, and Regional Integration**. It covers the years 2015 to 2063, which is a deliberate policy decision to align it with the African Union Agenda 2063. Phase One of the period covers the period of (2015-2020) and constitutes a period of active frontloading of the Industrial Development and Market Integration component of the RISDP and related infrastructure and services to support Industrialisation.
8. The Action Plan identifies several milestones that must be implemented by 2020, including the development of at least 10 regional/global value chain and value-adding strategies from the following **6 areas: agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, agro-processing, consumer goods, capital goods, and services**.
9. The SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap acknowledges the central role of various stakeholders including but not limited to Member States, financiers, technical partners, think tanks and academia. It is against this background that In August 2015, Summit took a decision urging Member States to popularize the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap at national levels.

16. Further, the declarations identify sector-specific proposals dealing with the pharmaceutical sector, agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and development of regional value chains. They emphasize the importance of the private sector in developing key regional plans and policy documents, including the SADC Industrialisation Action Plan.
17. The SIW Declarations are submitted to the SADC Industrial Development Forum (IDF) for noting and prioritization of issues for resolution and policy development and to the SADC Senior Ministers Meeting and the SADC Council of Ministers.
18. It is against this background that Council in March 2017 in the Kingdom of Eswatini, directed the Secretariat in coordination with Member States to intensify engagement with the Private Sector in order to accelerate the implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and the key elements of the Esibayeni Declaration. Council also endorsed that the SADC Industrialisation Week be convened annually, alongside the SADC Ordinary Summit.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

19. The commemoration of the 2025 SADC Industrialisation Week aims to achieve the following objectives:
 - i. Disseminating information among the SADC stakeholders including public sector, private sector, academia, research institutions, and think tanks to ensure a wider understanding and acceptability of the SISR.
 - ii. Eliciting action from various stakeholders, including the regional, continental, and international private sectors on the implementation of the SISR.
 - iii. Building coalitions to ensure understanding and cooperation among stakeholders on how to implement the Industrialisation Strategy including the development of RVCs (Pharmaceuticals, mineral beneficiation, and Agro processing)
 - iv. Increasing engagement on the Industrialisation strategy at national and regional level
 - v. Engage local and regional private sector on the preparedness and opportunities from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as they relate to the SISR.
 - vi. Formulating practical next steps which will involve kick-starting private sector-led working groups, projects, and program.
 - vii. Popularize the SISR and identify Industrialisation projects that can be implemented jointly by the public and private sectors within the SADC Member States.

FRAMEWORK FOR THE SADC INDUSTRIALISATION WEEK 2025

20. The 2025 Annual SADC Industrialisation Week will be commemorated in Antananarivo, Madagascar on the margins of the 45th Heads of State and Government Summit.

PROPOSED TARGET SECTORS

- Mineral beneficiation
- Women and youth
- Energy Transition
- Agro-processing
- Pharmaceuticals
- SMMEs
- Circular Economy & EPR
- AfCFTA update
- Infrastructure
- Tourism development
- Fast-Moving Consumer Goods
- Tax Regulatory Harmonisation
- Cross border investments in SADC

DRAFT PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Day 1 – Monday, July 28, 2025

Focus:	Media Engagement and Programme Awareness
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles of media in regional integration • Orientation on SADC Industrialisation Week agenda • Overview of media awards and responsibilities
Session Name:	Media Briefing Day – Overview and Strategic Messaging for the 8th SADC Industrialisation Week

Day 2 – Tuesday, July 29, 2025

Focus:	Grand Opening and Strategic Framing
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official opening by Heads of State and senior officials • Thematic unpacking of the SIW 2025 theme • Strategic dialogue on critical minerals and regional transformation
Unpacking of the theme:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing Industrialisation, Agricultural Transformation, and Energy Transition for a Resilient SADC • Harnessing the Mining–Energy–Industrialisation Nexus: Unlocking Critical Mineral Value Chains for Southern Africa’s Green and Inclusive Energy Transition

Day 3 – Wednesday, July 30, 2025

Focus:	Parallel Technical Sessions
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy transition and grid integration • Wildlife-based value chains • Climate-smart agriculture and investment • Agro-industrial financing and trade • Circular economy and inclusive innovation • Youth and women empowerment • AfCFTA implementation and agricultural transformation
Session Names:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powering Southern Africa's Future: Advancing a Just Energy Transition through Renewables, Regional Integration, and Innovation • Promoting Sustainable Industrialisation through Wildlife-Based Value Chains in SADC • Accelerating Climate-Smart Investments and Trade Integration in Southern Africa's Agrifood Systems • Financing an Inclusive Agro-Industrial Revolution: Mobilising Innovation, Investment, and Intra-African Trade for a Transformed SADC • Impact of the Circular Economy on Innovation, Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development • Accelerating Equity through Innovation: Empowering Youth and Women as Catalysts for a Digital and Inclusive Regional Agro-Industry • Unlocking Market Access through Newly Ratified AfCFTA Protocols to Eliminate Non-Tariff Barriers • Strategies for Catalysing Industrial Growth through Agricultural Transformation

Day 4 – Thursday, July 31, 2025

Focus:	Policy Integration and Closing
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy transition minerals • Economic and maritime corridors • Quality infrastructure • Inclusive industrialisation • SIW 2025 Declaration and official closing
Session Names:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Industrialisation through Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETM) – Opportunities for SADC • Strategic Corridors for a Resilient SADC: Unlocking Industrialisation, Agricultural Growth, and Energy Transition through Land and Maritime Integration • Strengthening Regional Quality Infrastructure to Support SADC Industrialisation and Resilience • Inclusive Industrialisation: When Small Factories Build Great Regions. • Engagement with Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. • SIW 2025 Declaration and Closing Ceremony

Day 5 – Friday, August 1, 2025

Focus:	Site Visits and Networking
Key Issues:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical exposure to industrial sites and infrastructure • Strengthening public-private engagement through field experiences
Session Names:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Visits and Sightseeing Tours

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1: Esibayeni Declarations

Kingdom of Eswatini, 2016

The Esibayeni SIW declaration statement notes the following to promote industrialisation in SADC:

- Acknowledges that; to improve trade and industrialisation, hard and soft infrastructure Shortcomings must always be addressed together. Governments and private sector must complement each other on this. Government must provide an enabling environment for private sector to participate in infrastructure development and investment.
- Policy certainty, including stability, predictability, consistency and transparency is prerequisite to attract investment for regional industrialisation regardless of sector or scale. This includes certainty and stability on the use of tariffs, fees and levies at border posts; Predictable export regimes; and consistent and transparent land use rights.
- Prioritization and sequencing are key to successful implementation of industrial policies Prioritization should consider geographical links, opportunities for incremental Implementation to allow for short-term gains, and industry specific requirements for value chain.
- Enabling trade through the removal on Non-Tariff Barriers, coordinated border management and a solid regional transit system is a prerequisite for industrialisation

Annexure 2: Sunninghill Declarations

Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, 2017

The Sunninghill SIW declaration notes the following to promote industrialisation in SADC:

- Acknowledge the inequalities that exist within Member States and that only through genuine Deeper regional integration can smaller and weaker economies can overcome their limitations
- That regional protocols, strategies and plans must be implemented at domestic level subject to the sensitivity to the changing socio political, economic and technological environments
- That it is essential to develop common awareness among the public and private sectors o.The main elements of quality of infrastructure for SADC assessing the net long term benefits. This includes standards of efficiency, safety and resilience, environment, social and gender inclusion.

Annexure 5: Lilongwe Declarations

Republic of Malawi, 2021

The Lilongwe declaration notes the following to promote industrialisation in SADC.

- i. Member States recognize SADC BC as a regional National Focal Point (NFP) for NTBs and co-explore ways to make the NTB reporting mechanism and associated structures work better.
- ii. SADC BC and SADC to explore ways in which the Tax Regulatory platform and FIC Directorate can work closely together to achieve mutual objectives.
- iii. SADC Pharmaceutical Working Group that has been established and provides an ecosystem to coordinate and collaborate between the public sector, private sector and aligned partners should be supported.
- iv. SADC Secretariat to work together with Member States and private sector to ensure that the use of any data to make assertions on Illegal Financial Flows (IFFs) are based on facts
- v. The development of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture value chains in the region to be supported by addressing supply-side constraints.
- vi. Good progress has been made in the commencement of the Regional Gas Masterplan Phase 2 study and Gas will play a significant role in Energy Transition because it is categorised as a low-carbon source of energy.
- vii. Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) to ensure that the achievement of the continents' Industrialisation goals is done in a sustainable manner by providing funding solutions to support the decarbonisation efforts of commercial and industrial energy users.
- viii. Foster high-impact and opportunity-driven entrepreneurship in the SADC region in order to bolster productive capacities and accelerate inclusive industrial transformation.
- ix. Support the growth of the SADC RTGS to ensure value of the platform for the benefit of trade and recipients of remittances.
- x. Establish centres of excellence focusing on digital technologies, investment in digital skills, technology transfer and Intellectual Property

Annexure 6: Kinshasa Declarations

Democratic Republic of Congo, 2023

- i. That whilst most SADC countries have policies on value chains with an emphasis on "local content" there are still no visible or recognized regional value chains in the region.
- ii. Intra-regional trade in the SADC region remains very relatively low and there is a need to domesticate regional policies that promote the development of Regional Value Chains.
- iii. Identify barriers in RVCs (Agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, and pharmaceuticals, as well as the related capital goods and services) through SADC Secretariat mechanisms including the Industrial Development Forum meetings.
 - a. Finalise strategies critical to the future road map including the SADC Pharmaceutical Business Plan and the ZAZIBONA strategy. These should include a clear definition of roles and responsibilities in relation to the Africa Medicines Agency, ZAZIBONA, AUDA NEPAD, SADC Secretariat and the SADC Business Council
 - b. The draft Regional Mining Vision that was presented to the Council in 2019 has a number of opportunities for mineral value chains for regional growth however, it has not been implemented.

- c. A stronger regional collaboration by Member States in the SADC region is critical for regional value chains to be initiated successfully.
- d. The Common Agro-Industrial Park between Zambia and Zimbabwe is an innovative project, being the first of its kind in Africa.
- e. The joint cooperation is anchored on the Industrial Policy and Strategy from SADC and COMESA with key priority areas such as: Agro-processing, Energy, Textile and Garments, Leather and Leather Products, Mineral Beneficiation, Pharmaceuticals, Chemicals and Agro-Chemicals, Light Engineering and Blue Economy
- f. Eco-Agro Enterprise Pty Ltd is promoting sustainable technological innovation and agro entrepreneurship among communities within the SADC region.
- g. South Africa and the DRC will sign a bilateral agreement on Science Technology and Innovation and the DRC can leverage this agreement to include support in rolling out the projects under the Eco-Agro Enterprise Pty Ltd
- h. SADC Member States need to adopt a regional focus for gas exploitation and implementation.
- i. Consideration is required for a multi-sectoral approach in the development of regional energy policies, instruments, and strategies.
- j. Public and private sectors need to collaborate to promote SADC tourism products, including Transfrontier Conservation Area destinations.
- k. Co-operate in identifying and resolving barriers to realising the tourism potential of the region.
- l. The Tripartite NTB reporting mechanism is a valuable tool to address NTBs affecting trade in the region.
- m. However, capacity constraints result in the slow resolution of NTBs. In this regard, further support and strengthening of public and private sector National Focal Points (NFPs) and National Monitoring Committees (NMCs) is needed on an ongoing basis to continue harmonizing standards, technical regulations as well as conformity assessment procedures to conform to the SADC Protocol to Trade and WTO TBT agreement and therefore facilitate trade within the region.

Annexure 7: Harare Declarations

Republic of Zimbabwe, 2024

The Forum DECLARE the following as key priority areas that require attention and action from all stakeholders including Member States on this date 01 August 2024:

- i. *Finance and Investment:*
 - a. Mobilizing domestic resources: Promoting innovative financing models such as harnessing pension and Sovereign Wealth Funds and other PPPs frameworks.
 - b. Creating an enabling investment climate: Simplifying regulatory frameworks, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and improving infrastructure to attract domestic and foreign investment.
 - c. SADC Regional Development Fund: There is an urgent need to formalize and operationalize the SADC Regional Development Fund to propel the industrialization agenda in the region.
 - d. Leveraging regional integration: Facilitating cross-border investment, trade, and financial flows, and integrating regional value chains into global value chains.
 - e. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborating with the private sector to develop and implement infrastructure projects and other key initiatives.
 - f. Developing human capital: Investing in education, skills development, and entrepreneurship to build

a skilled workforce and promote innovation. Additionally, there is a need to re-purpose our education systems to bridge the technology gap and current global trends and enable the SADC region to be more competitive.

- g. Promoting sustainable development: Integrating environmental and social considerations into investment decisions and supporting climate-resilient projects.
- h. Member States should create easily accessible, tailored funding programs for women, youth, and the disabled.

ii. *Africa Direct Investment (ADI)*

- a. Promoting ADI: Creating awareness of investment opportunities within the region and facilitating information sharing among Member States.
- b. Reducing investment barriers: Harmonizing investment regulations, simplifying administrative procedures, and promoting investment facilitation centres.
- c. Developing financial instruments: Promoting the development of financial instruments to support ADI, such as trade finance, risk-sharing mechanisms, and equity funds.
- d. Strengthening regional institutions: Enhancing the capacity of regional institutions to support ADI, including through capacity building and knowledge sharing.
- e. Fostering public-private partnerships: Collaborating with the private sector to develop bankable investment projects and create an enabling environment for ADI.

iii. *Mobilizing the Diaspora for Regional Development*

- a. The following points were observed by the forum
- b. Facilitating diaspora investment: Creating incentives for diaspora investment, providing investment facilitation services, and promoting diaspora-focused investment funds.
- c. Leveraging remittances: Promoting financial inclusion, reducing remittance costs, and channelling remittances into productive investments.
- d. Building diaspora networks: Establishing platforms for engagement between diaspora communities and SADC member states, and supporting diaspora associations.
- e. Promoting skills and knowledge transfer: Facilitating knowledge exchange and technology transfer through diaspora engagement, and supporting diaspora professionals in contributing to development projects.
- f. Diaspora engagement in governance: Creating opportunities for diaspora participation in decision-making processes and policy development.

iv. *Mobilizing Private Investment for Infrastructure Development*

- a. Prioritizing infrastructure projects: Identifying and prioritizing infrastructure projects with high development impact and investment potential.
- b. Improving the investment climate: Creating a stable and predictable regulatory environment, reducing bureaucratic hurdles, and providing incentives for private investment.
- c. Developing PPP frameworks: Establishing clear and transparent PPP frameworks to attract private investment in infrastructure projects.
- d. Enhancing project preparation: Improving project preparation and feasibility studies to enhance investor

confidence.

- e. Mobilizing domestic resources: Promoting local content and participation in infrastructure projects, and leveraging pension funds and other institutional investors.
- f. Strengthening regional cooperation: Coordinating infrastructure development across borders and promoting regional infrastructure corridors.
- g. Energy Infrastructure- Co-financing of energy infrastructure projects to support industrialization.
- h. Clean Fuels and e-mobility- There is a need for a policy that facilitates the adoption of clean fuels and e-mobility.
- i. Energy Efficiency- there is a need to promote energy efficiency practices in the industries to reduce carbon footprint.

v. *Innovation*

- a. The Region should have Start-Up Legislation, Policies and Strategies to promote international funding;
- b. R & D:-Governments should support and fund Research and Development for capacity-building programmes that equip local people with skills for emerging industries in line with AU declaration.
- c. There is need for the creation of centres of excellence in science and technology that enable sound research for modern industrial processes and accelerated industrialization.

vi. *Promoting Circular Economies*

- a. Harmonization of policies : There is a need for the harmonization of Policies and Regulatory Frameworks across the SADC region to support the implementation of circular economy practices.
- b. Legislative Alignment and Incentives: there is need for coordinated efforts among Member States to align legislation and incentive structures to create an enabling environment for circular economy initiatives.

vii. *Intellectual Property Rights*

- a. Enhancing Intellectual Property Rights will create inter-alia a level playing field for all businesses, preventing unfair competition, and safeguarding intellectual property rights, thus encouraging innovation.
- b. Member States should comply with the AfCFTA rules of origin, thus, preventing circumvention.

viii. *MSME Development*

- a. Strategy implementation: There is need for an accelerated implementation of the Five-year Strategy for Financial Inclusion and MSMEs' access to finance (2023 to 2028).
- b. The Private Sector has a role on the development of SMES including market access and financing but also technical assistance.
- c. Capital markets need to be configured to accommodate SMEs and start-ups.

ix. *Special Economic Zones*

Collaboration between SADC Member States in the implementation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) should be enhanced as it offers numerous advantages such as regional integration, shared resources, and mutual benefits from best practices.

- a. Member States can develop more robust infrastructure and regulatory frameworks, making SEZs more attractive to foreign and domestic investors.
 - b. The political will to collaborate on the creation of integrated cross-border Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that focus on value addition and beneficiation of natural resources extracted from the region is essential to curb the export of these resources in raw form, ultimately benefiting the citizens of SADC.
 - c. Adequate creation and utilization of Free Trade Areas constituted in the region based on country strengths to create efficient markets for investors, leveraging on the AfCFTA Agreement, the TFTA which has come into force on 25 July 2024 and the SADC Investment Protocol.
- x. *Circular Economy Approach*
- a. Private sector to champion the preparation of a SADC Regional Plastics Waste/Circular Economy Strategy which should include trade facilitation-related issues.
 - b. Private sector to support completion of the Lusaka EPR pilot project.
- xi. *Standards, Quality, Accreditation and Metrology*
- a. Establishing Centres of Excellence: SADC Member States to explore the possibility of establishing Regional Quality Assurance Centres of Excellence with support from and other Cooperating Partners.
 - b. Establishing Quality Infrastructure: Member States to continuously assist, Industries including MSMEs to comply with quality standards and requirements that will enable them to participate in regional and global trade. This entails investing in Quality Infrastructure Development, with special emphasis on testing, inspection, certification, calibration, and accreditation.
- xii. *Spatial Development and Corridor Development*
- a. Appropriate capacity must be put in place to support the core functions of Corridor Management to improve the efficiency and cost of trade.
- xiii. *Execution and Review*
- a. ENCOURAGE all stakeholders, including the private sector, member states, civil society organisations, academic and research institutions, and regional and international cooperating partners to facilitate and support the implementation of this Declaration at national and regional levels.
 - b. UNDERTAKE to review the implementation of this Declaration on a regular basis and to report the progress at the next SADC Industrialisation Week 2025.

SUMMARY CONCLUSION

- Hosted on the margins of the annual SADC Heads of State and Government Summit
- Officiated by Heads of State/sitting Presidents and the SADC Executive Secretary
- Hosted annually by the incoming Chair of SADC each year.
- Largest public-private platform in the SADC region
- SIW is the largest consultative body for Industrialisation in SADC
- Facilitator of multiple sector and industry site visits in each SADC country
- Wide range of presentations by industry experts and mandated government officials
- Attended by Captains of industry and senior government officials.
- SADC's largest business exhibition event of the year that supports local & regional MSMEs& Private Sector





June, 2025

