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Regional Organization at a Glance: The Case for SADC (Southern African Development Community)

*Songamla A. Sharon

PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi. Delhi-7

Abstract

Regional integration is considered as an important tenet to enhance economic development and stability for emerging countries. It places emphasis on peace, protection, human and political stability, and brings broad avenue for technology transfer. SADC is considered as one of the organization that provides a basis for successful economic transformation in the continent. Trade liberalization increases competition and provides for product specialization and allows developing countries to enhance competitive edge that boost business confidence. The organization is concerned about sustainability and food security and so, taking agriculture development and human development as a strategy, to fight for these challenges. With the right policies and strategies, the member states can overcome the vicious circle of poverty and thereby ensured food security. Economic performance is largely attributed to positive political system as well as introduction of macroeconomic policies within member countries. SADC governments should focus on measures that boosts productivity, strengthens regional market for favorable trade flows and deepens integration. In future, SADC organization is expected to generate a substantial increase in its production levels and improves its trade and cross-border investment.

Keywords: *Economic development, Integration, Investment, Agriculture, trade, GDP*

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***Author's Correspondence**

Songamla A. Sharon

PhD, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi. Delhi-7

sharonluv90[at]gmail.com

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Introduction

Regional organization involves, participation of countries having similar features in regard to political, socio-economic and cultural aspects, and executing joint projects, joint development of common interests, and policy harmonization etc. Regional organization allows countries to develop connection flexibility and stimulates economic interaction. Regional organization employed here implies the establishment of management of mutually interdependent relationships that includes two or more countries within the same geographical zones. Post 1990s, regional integration schemes were proliferated in all parts of Africa to enhance trade, infrastructural development, industry and other services.

It is obvious nowadays that, regional organization is in vogue around the world, as virtually every continent implements one scheme or another. The most renowned and the vanguard of regional integration has been the European Union (EU). It can be said that most of the country pursuing regional organization is for the promotion of regional stability. For some country, the purpose for involvement in regional integration is the opportunity to increase the overall welfare and standard of living of a people. It can also be said that nation states decide to participate in regional organization schemes, including market integration, largely because of political reasons. This is particularly occurred and relevant in those regions that have been bedeviled by inter-state strife. Regional strife could not only drain wealth of the regions and resources but it can lead to disruptions in trade and economic relations. In addition, a poor neighborhood can increase the political and commercial risks of doing business in the region, which particularly increased the overall cost for the business community and scaring away much-needed capital. According to neoclassical economic thought, countries contemplate and join regional integration because of the resultant dynamic and static benefits. The dynamic benefits argument is that grouping together two or more countries and their coordination of business or industrial policies under the concept of regionalism brought opportunities of economies of scale for the firm as well as the industry and simultaneously stimulate business and economic activities. The strengthening of market size as a result of regional integration, and economies of scope and the protection from third countries provides member countries the opportunity to establish new manufacturing activities and industries that otherwise might not have been created. The participating countries hope to gain from this integration schemes. In short, regionalism can augment the bargaining power and confidence of participating states in the global arena.

Study elsewhere shows that regional organization in Africa has been largely pursued within the purview of market integration, regional cooperation, and development integration. By adopting regional organization as a strategy, SADC was formulated as an attempt to enhance the overall development of the region and to bring structural transformation. The SADC (Southern African Development Community) is a regional organization that consists of 15 southern African states with the objective of realizing ambitious regional integration plans. SADC is a diverse group of nations which comprise of developed nations, land locked, small islands and vast land area that have tremendous potential. The organization is also one of eight regional economic groupings which formally recognized by the African Union (AU) as one of the building blocks toward achieving strategic goal. SADC countries exhibit as a family with an active, energetic and the potential of becoming a powerful trading community, ready to confront challenges and the opportunities presented by global world. The community is also portrayed as a union of nations determined to move towards brighter future. After the breakdown of South Africa's apartheid and the subsequent progress along the way deepens regional integration for the community. Its vision is of a common future that ensures economic well-being, improvement in quality of life of the people and raising standard of living, peace and security, and social justice.

The economies of SADC are growing at different stages of development, differing significantly in terms of the size. Its ranges comprising countries like Malawi, which figures among the poorest nation states, to countries like Mauritius, which is a stable and prospering country. Growth levels in SADC thus, greatly differs from country to country. 'On average, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita increased by 3% per year in SADC over the last decade' (SADC, 2013). For some reason, economic growth is propelled by a booming industry and trade. Whereas, in small SADC countries, it is the services sector, mainly a rapidly expanding tourist sector which immensely contributed to GDP growth. This clearly defines the potential of increased growth rate in SADC. The changes in business behavior and the government policies play a significant role. Government policies has shaped the business environment that had greatly influence the likelihood of companies to invest, trade and whether to hire more employees. Many of the SADC economies are associated with small and marginal market size, inadequate socio-economic infrastructure and the fact that, persistent low-income level made them more difficult to attract investment opportunities and to achieve sustainable development. Accordingly, SADC opted for a developmental approach that reflects trade policy, resource-endowments, development strategies and institutional affiliations which allows the member states to identify appropriate strategies in order to address regional imbalances and to overcome economic instability. As a part of inter-governmental agenda, SADC's regional leaders have enunciated a number of socio- economic and political strategic priorities as its core agenda of integration, comprising of a unique protocol at various sectors. The community also undergoes restructuring process to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of its policies as well as programs in order to achieve coherent and better coordinated strategy. Besides, clear orientation for the programs and the policies, the community restructured to achieve medium term and long-term goals. This strategy laid emphasis on overcoming extreme poverty, unemployment, underdevelopment and improve living standards.

Most of the SADC countries resemble different levels of industrial development; their macroeconomic policies are not properly harmonized nor its regional macroeconomic stability is in good shape. In fact, the nations opted to involve in this integration schemes because of the unprecedented economic benefits from expansion of trade.

Besides, member countries have unstable industrial policy as a result, the gains from integration schemes could not be evenly distributed, leading to regional giant benefitting the most. Not surprising, the well-developed country such as South Africa experienced an overwhelmingly disproportionate number of benefits whereas, the leased developed like Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland to name a few, remains stagnant. As such, foreign direct investment could not be accelerated at a rapid pace, as most of the economy are inward oriented, and most nations are politically unstable. The increased intra-regional trade in the continent could be enhanced through the mechanisms of removing discriminatory distortions, and by accelerating infrastructure base in the continent.

Impact of economic integration in SADC

Early1990s, globalization had been the most important phenomena around the entire world driven by a technological advance and opening up of trade. This brought about remarkable benefits in terms of growth and investment as well as triggering new challenges especially in the developing world. Regional integration is expected to enhance structural transformation and thereby contributing towards economic development which then leads to large markets and thus reap the economies of scale. Economic integration stimulates resource allocation and enhances industrialization through joint-production of goods and services. Since its first democratic election, in 1994, SADC had incorporated regional integration into its policies, for witnessing good governance and enhance economic ties amongst the members.

Initially, it has been argued that regional integration in Africa has been as a result of European integration efforts and experiences during the pre-colonial era. But, similar regional integration path, adopted by Africa at the post-colonial time became unsuccessful, with regard to its weak political system, along with lack of technology and industrialization, which had prevented achieving the desired level of regionalism envisaged. It is seen recently that, economic growth in Africa has witnessed poorly with that of other developing countries. Study shows that, the SADC economy represents less than 1 per cent of world GDP and the region contains around 3 per cent of the world's population. 'One major impediment to trade and economic growth in the region remains the high cost of transport due to inadequate physical infrastructure and delays at or behind border barriers' (SADC, 2013). As such, the economic growth has generally been insufficient to generate substantial income for the community. Among the SADC members, it is observed that South Africa had always been the vehicle for development of the region and the gateway to a larger regional market. "SADC's member states ability to develop the region to its full potential became genuine only after South Africa was transformed from a white-settler apartheid military state into a non-racial democracy in 1994" (Lee 2003).

When looked at individual countries, it is obvious that South Africa is the unchallenged economic hegemony. The reason being- different factor endowments, diverse geographical locations and sizes, some are interlinked with international trading routes, and population sizes vary greatly. Apparently, the production of SADC has been extremely uneven, largely due to differences in resource endowment and differing economic size of different member States. It is well known that; South Africa is the largest economy in SADC when it comes of GDP. On the score, economic performance has remained fragile and most SADC countries are threatened by natural disasters and adverse external shocks. In addition, of having a small manufacturing sector, many economies are unable to produce a diversified and differentiated range of finished products but rather confined to agricultural-resource products. Major contributing factors triggering to the persistent low level of per capita income is as a result of distorted and underdeveloped production mechanism, poor economic policies, weak macro-economic management and unfavorable international economic environment. SADC region, the services sector represents more than half of the GDP and remains the major driver of economic growth. The relative importance of different other sectors varies significantly from country to country. For example, countries like Namibia, Lesotho, Mozambique and Malawi recorded the greatest reliance on agriculture. In these countries, as per the available data, agriculture contributes to more than a quarter to their respective GDPs.

For countries like Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Namibia, South Africa and Zambia are dominated by oil or mineral. In these countries, the oil and mining industry play significant roles as major foreign exchange reserves and are important resources for industrial development. Since, this sector are capital intensive, they could generate ample amount of employment opportunities directly and indirectly. In other countries, agriculture commodities dominate export trade items. Significant number of imports of SADC Members is dominated by intermediate and capital goods. Agriculture plays a dominant role in SADC's economy contributing more than 30 per cent to its GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Majority of the member states depends on agriculture for their food, income and employment. Agriculture also plays a major role for region's export purposes. Agriculture sector performance has a stimulating effect on the region's socio-economic development, regional integration and poverty reduction because the SADC economy are agro-based in nature and most of the investment are attracted to food processing, and agribusiness etc.

The Trade Protocol has been the significant instrument in the organization's quest for economic cooperation. FTA aims to remove barriers to trade in goods and services for its trading members, and established a common external tariff, and to then redistribute tariff revenue among its members. It is hoped that these principles of engagement will ultimately promote spillover effects for the region. With the launched of FTA on September 1, 2000 marked the starting of a process of tariff reduction and removal of non-tariff barriers. The central idea for the creation of Free Trade Area (FTA) was an attempt to ensure industrial growth within the community, and to witnessed maximum economic gain from trade. SADCs approach in the formulation of the FTA is geared towards ultimately attracting foreign investment and strengthen interest in the region. With the introduction of FTA, there has been marked increase in level of exports from South Africa to southern African region, and significant impact has been felt in the region. "Exports from South Africa to Mozambique, which is South Africa's largest trading partner in the region after Angola, increased from R899.5 million in 1992 to R6.419 billion in 2002, resulting in an exceptional regional spillover that increased Mozambique's investment growth from 47 million to 403 million over the same period" (Adebajo, 2010). In 2007, it was found that Angola was South Africa's second largest trading partner within the SADC community reaching bilateral trade in terms of billion. "In 2008, 85 per cent of goods were traded duty free, with 99 per cent duty-free trade envisaged within southern Africa by 2012" (). Not surprisingly, South Africa's exports and imports have a profound impact on SADC integration efforts. However, given the lopsidedness of SADC's economy and instability in the region, initiatives such as the FTA will only make a significance difference if the economic benefits are distributed equally among the SADC members. In the long run, the development of SADC will bring political stability, only if benefits is witnessed in each of the participating countries.

Since the inception of SADC in 1992, regional integration has not accelerated significantly, With South Africa accounting for more than 60 per cent of the SADC's gross domestic product (GDP). Despite SADC's liberal trade policy framework which attempts to open its market and promote trade creation rather than trade diversion, intra-SADC trade is still limited. Adopting more liberal trade policies nationally does not automatically mean easy access to market regionally, nor would liberal policies lean more in favor of regional trade. It may be said that viable economic regional integration efforts can succeed only if SADC capitalizes more robustly on its comparative advantage and conducts trade in differentiated commodities.

Study shows that, SADC has an overall intra-community trade of less than 30 percent, with the remaining trade percentage being outside the region. Of the organization's fifteen member states, six have a comparative advantage in oil and mineral resources. South Africa and Mauritius played a remarkable role in industry and could use this advantage positively from the core to the periphery for the benefit of regional integration. Manufactured goods and products contribute ample amount to total merchandise exports in major countries like in, South Africa, Mauritius and Zimbabwe. However, the performance on the whole is in state of fragility and most SADC countries continues to exposed to adverse external shocks. Within the community, large shares of GDP originated from primary sectors namely, agriculture and mining. Besides having inadequate manufacturing sector, SADC economies continues to produce a similar range of products such as foodstuffs, beverages, tobacco, textiles, clothing and footwear, which are agricultural-resource based. Thus, vertical improvement in all sectors of production is marginal and inadequate.

Study elsewhere has identified that wars results to loss of wealth and resources which are scarce in the region. It is also seen that among the member states that the major threats encountered by the region are not only military threats to the security of the people but also socio- economic risks to human survival, livelihood and dignity. While conflict pose an adverse effect on the economic growth and welfare. The conflict occurred in the region might be due to increased refugee flows, spike in military spending, distorted transport and communications, deteriorated trade and investment, and diversion of resources from development. Study estimates that, civil war in the continent lowers its GDP per capita by 2.2 percentage points annually. In these regions, where countries experiencing stagnation, the degree of emergencies are fairly regular. These emergencies often resulted to social discontent, and brought fertile ground for collective violence. Of the various components of emergencies, civil strife, war and violence have been the major occurrence in the face of political instability. Besides, marked deterioration of living conditions, especially during a period of high expectations, are more likely to produce political unrest in the region. Falling average incomes and growing political consciousness spurred pressures to national leaders, whose responses usually have been anti-egalitarian and anti-growth. Again, the populations suffering from deprivation and in humanitarian emergencies has also been threatened by social discrimination and high inequality. This high-income inequality has often been a source of conflict in these slowly growing economies. When a population is unsatisfied with levels of income, social discrimination, poverty and inequality may actually spur the revolt, leading to state hostility which eventually turn to deadly political violence.

It may be said that, human security is a precondition for economic and social development, while, progress in both areas becomes minimal. Success requires democratically stable State based on tolerance and harmony in view of political and cultural diversity, universal respect for fundamental human rights and the rule of law. While the continent has vast untapped potential and hidden scarce resources, which needs to mobilize to improve its economy and political systems. This would lead to progressive poverty reduction and excessive dependency on primary exports products, and improves efficient manufacturing and service sectors relevant to the emerging global economy.

A glimpse of Food Insecurity in SADC

Food security may be defined as the success of livelihood strategies in guaranteeing sufficient food at the household or family level. In other words, food security is when people, have social, physical and economic access to nutritious food all year round and meeting their daily dietary needs and food preferences for a strong and healthy life. Food security can be achieved when people access to nutritious food and maintain hygienic sanitary environment and ensuring adequate healthcare services for healthy and active life for all households. Food and nutrition security fundamentally determines life possibilities, and make people able to convert opportunities into outcomes. It has been found that improved in nutrition has significantly reduces child and maternal mortality, as well as it improves in educational outcomes, and increases economic productivity in the end. Economist Amartya Sen in his influential book 'Development as Freedom' had argued that 'development consists of the removal of various types of 'un-freedoms' that leave people with little choice and little opportunity of exercising their reasoned agency' (Sen, 1999). He postulates that the persistent extensive hunger in the world prosperity resulted to unparalleled tragedy, which is an integral part of the modern world as a tragedy which is essentially unpreventable. In view of this, the United Nations had argued that human right has not been so frequently violated for right to food, since, it is one of the most consistent human rights in international human rights law, that constantly laid emphasis by governments. In order to eliminate hunger, it is crucial to understand the causes of hunger in sufficiently broad terms, and it is not enough to understand only the balanced between food and population, as is often argued. A more recent analysis of hunger, famine and food insecurity focuses attention as response failure in view of the failure of governments and agencies to intervene and protect households from food insecurity owing to supply and demand failures. In the book Development as Freedom, Sen wrote that 'there has never been a famine in a functioning multi-party democracy' (Sen, 1999:178). He also argued that democracies involve a range of freedoms not just the right to vote out an inappropriate government, but the right to protect against citizen for violation of basic rights, which includes the right to food.

There is an extensive argument for the root causes of food insecurity that has afflicted countries in southern Africa, particularly since 2001. Many of these studies agreed that there has been a long- term erosion of resilient livelihood strategies over a period of time. While harvest failures were evident in the drought years of 2001 and 2002 which appears to be the main factor for food insecurity in the region. This resulted to accelerate current levels of extreme poverty, the condition was further worsened by widespread epidemic and communicable diseases. The Global Hunger Index developed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, 2009), which monitors reduction of food security, shows that southern Africa made only marginal progress during 1990 and 2008. Nine out of the ten worst performing countries in terms of percentage index during this period were found in Africa. Indeed, the 2009 State of Food Insecurity report, jointly authored by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Program (WFP), "had estimate that more than 40 per cent of the 257 million people in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region are undernourished" (Quoted from FAO and WFP, 2014). It may be said that food security is the foundation of human security, without which, efforts to build peace and security in southern Africa would remain elusive. It has been argued that hunger relates not only to low agricultural food production but also to the functioning of other sectors as well as to the operation of socio-political management that can, directly or indirectly influences people's ability to acquire food, achieve health safety and maintain nourishment.

SADC food and nutrition security is largely dependent on the performance of agriculture, which is the driver for livelihood security for about 70 per cent of the region's total population. Food availability is largely assessed through cereal production levels. During the period beginning from 1990's the region witnessed yearly variations in in terms of its cereal and maize production. Until recently, regional cereal production levels show marked upward improvements, due to use of improved inputs like fertilizers and seeds provision through government programs such s subsidy adding to good rains and improved economic policies. The improvement in overall cereal production at a regional level in southern Africa could not be taken as an indicator of overall improved food security in every country, as many countries continue to produce less than their national requirements. Study elsewhere shows that, during the 2009 season, only South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe produced more than their national requirements, while the remain countries in the sub region faced food deficit. SADC had less able to absorb shocks or stresses than during the 1990s, in view of the region being more vulnerable to the external shocks than previously. The negative outcomes and indicators not only point to malnutrition, but also indicate lower life expectancy, increased child mortality, higher levels of poverty, and the rapid spread of epidemics. In the region, the underlying causes of regional food insecurity are as a result of climate change, which triggers floods and droughts, weak service delivery, inappropriate agricultural strategy and distorted government policies, as well as the global food price hikes. It is no doubt that, the region is well endowed with natural resources and rich biodiversity, however, poverty becomes one of the deep- root causes of food insecurity facing the region.

Recognizing the need to achieve greater food security, SADC government entered into a declaration with the perception of eliminating poverty and ensuring sustainable development in the year 2008. In addition, the SADC Ministers of Trade, Agriculture and Finance were established to enhance regional cooperation in an effort to facilitate cross-border investment and tackle internal food deficit alongside improved infrastructure and distribution networks. SADC's strategic framework for addressing food insecurity is guided by initiatives operating at four levels. At the global level, the first MDG commits UN member states to reduce to halve the number of people living below poverty and hunger by 2015. At the continental level, African government endorsed a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) in 2003 as a plan of action for revitalizing the agriculture sector, after recognizing this sector's incapacity to mitigate poverty and improve food security. One of the four pillars of the CAADP- the Framework for African Food Security (FAFS), which is specifically aims at addressing shortage of food supply, widespread and persistent hunger and malnutrition, and inadequate management at the time of food crisis. At the regional level, SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) of 2003 provides a framework to guide member states on how to achieve food security. Finally, at the national level, SADC countries have formulated various food security policies and poverty mitigation strategies.

One of the agreed measures is increased availability of and access to key agricultural inputs to the farmers, such as use of improved seeds varieties, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, tillage services and farmers tools and implements. The Declaration also laid stress on the following objectives such as promotion of equitable socio-economic development with the ultimate objective of poverty eradication and sustainable harnessing of natural resources for effective protection of ecology and environment. For the medium- and long-term goals, SADC governments agreed to devote 10 per cent of government budget to agriculture sector and rural development. SADC governments also identified the need to develop a regional food processing facility, and upgrade infrastructure facilities to promote trade and commerce, as well as construct dam for irrigation purposes.

Meanwhile regional strategy to combat malnutrition has tended to focus on the economic and environmental causes. It is found that, women's educational status has the strongest impact on child malnutrition, followed closely by per capita food availability. Child malnutrition results from major diseases such as malaria, acute respiratory infections (including pneumonia). Women's vulnerability is caused by inadequate access to and control over land area, despite knowing that women are the primary agricultural producers in the region. It is seen that in many SADC states, people have a diet high in carbohydrates relative to proteins and fats. Having enough food availability at a national level is a necessity but not a sufficient condition for a country to attain food security. The correct data of food ration per person at national levels would guarantee food security, since food is available to all households. The unprecedented financial recession and food price hikes has seriously affected poor and vulnerable groups in SADC and low-income countries, who will continue to suffer until the crisis abates. It is the poorest of the poor, households headed by elderly members and families who have suffered the greatest food insecurity in view of financial crisis. Researchers shows that the impact of increased food prices has impacted on other sector such as electricity or transport especially in the poorest region where the largest share of their budget are devoted to food. Thus, when food prices rise, the poor have the least ability to cut on food expenditures to compensate for the increased costs. In addition, adverse weather conditions such as increased temperatures, irregular rainfall and recurrent droughts and floods due to climate change threatened agricultural production to the region. Climate change is also linked directly to food production and impacts negatively on livelihood and health. For example, soil degradation and infertility already common, is rapidly damaging the capacity of the forests and ecosystems to support agricultural production, as such, water resources are under threat and coming greater pressure.

Among SADC, land issues are at the center for food insecurity and thus, livelihood are entirely depended on it, which often encountered great complexities. 'The complications of land issues relate to colonial land alienation policies and discriminatory development and investment patterns that have limited people's access to land' (SADC, 2005). Some of the major issues hinge around inequalities in distribution, inefficient utilization of land, discriminatory land laws, and weak government and judiciary capacities for implementation of the reform processes. In 2001, the SADC Heads of State directed regional land ministers to develop a regional reform strategy to guide the formulation and implementation of sustainable programs that respond to national development priorities. This was partly based on the premise that land reform was necessary in order to achieve sustainable food security. 'Land reform continues to be a major source of debate in the SADC region, requiring resolution and action from member states' (Moyo and Hall, 2007:150-76).

Conclusions

The major issues that the SADC region needs to address is its inability to adapt to the ongoing circumstances and new challenges facing the region. It may be possible to resolve the main problems and challenges facing SADC, through proper economic development framework and integration agenda. The economic challenge can be overcome by correcting the disruptive structure of the system, while, improving macroeconomic performance, political and corporate governance and unlock the untapped potential that lies within the continent. In sum, the way forward is the development of an environment conducive mechanism at regional level, poverty eradication and the establishment of a sustainable path of development.

In industrial and manufacturing sector, the strategies to pursued in the region should focus on promotion of export, establishment of industrial linkages, liberalized investment climate, policies for imports of essential goods, technological transfer and human development, and equitable distribution of economic benefits. It is no doubt that, SADC's industrial policies and strategies have to some extent contributes to the development of industry sector in the region. Indeed, balanced and mutually beneficial industrialization in the region remains lacking. Targeting on establishing industrial linkages and efficient utilization of its regional resources would lead to creation of gainful employment opportunities which would ensure overall development. Again, it is necessary to develop a constructive agenda among member states to strengthen its cooperation for deeper regional integration. The SADC should also develop a strategy to utilize its various protocols and declarations to bring a win-win situation for all its member states in the end, given different stages of development of each member states. Again, SADC is to continue unlocking trade and commerce platform along the geographical borders, this allows the participation of private and public firms for investment opportunities, at the same time rehabilitating transport and other infrastructure facilities along the development corridors. Trade flows is extremely volatile, since it is threatened by the existence of low product standards and tariff regime, weak customs infrastructure and bad roads. In fact, subsequent trade policies need to put in place to deal with trade reforms, removal of trade restrictions and other barriers along the international borders.

It is not surprised that, SADC countries faces some forms of social discrimination, health issues, refugee flows, defense, and political challenges. For some member country, these challenges could not be able to tackle effectively. Civil strife and political unrest in one state can threatened and trigger harm to its neighbors and damage their economies. Recently, some economist had branded the continent as the region afflicted by natural calamities, civil war, widespread diseases, political instability and human right violation. It is certain that, there are still civil strife occurrence in a few member states, Angola and the DRC to name a few, where SADC as a whole need to collectively addressing this in a pragmatic way.

The process of rethinking its common agenda reflecting their main priorities for the development, as provided for in the Declaration and the Treaty should be fast track. The introduction of this development programs and strategy would require a technical expertise at both national and regional levels. Globalization is indeed a prerequisite for SADC; it becomes the important strategy for the region. It transforms the economy and prepares for global competition and boosts wider market for developing countries. SADC needs to deepen its integration in a quick possible way through liberalization of trade within member states and enable them to compete their economy with fast growing economies like South-East Asia, China, Europe and latin America. In addition, it is necessary to invest more of their national budget on social services such as health, technology, education and physical infrastructures. If SADC member countries are to realize their goals and objectives, it is imperative to overcome the stigma of poverty and undernourished that afflicts more than half of their entire population. There is also a need to restructure macro-economic reforms such as financial sectors, private sectors and the state should able to play macro-economic stabilizer. Priority must be identified, aiming at poverty mitigation, food security and technological take-off.

The SADC region has the potential to introduce modern irrigation systems that would greatly reduce dependence on rain-fed. Today the consensus of an agricultural development in SADC, lies on the application of modern technology and farm inputs (improved seeds and fertilizers). Introducing these types of technology will shift from subsistence agriculture towards climate-smart agriculture. Food security is prerequisite for sustain development, but this goal can not be met without big push. Effective agricultural and nutrition policies need to strengthen and these policies must be leveraged through actions that built resiliency and empower people. That way, food security could accelerate and help sustain the promise of these new trends.

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