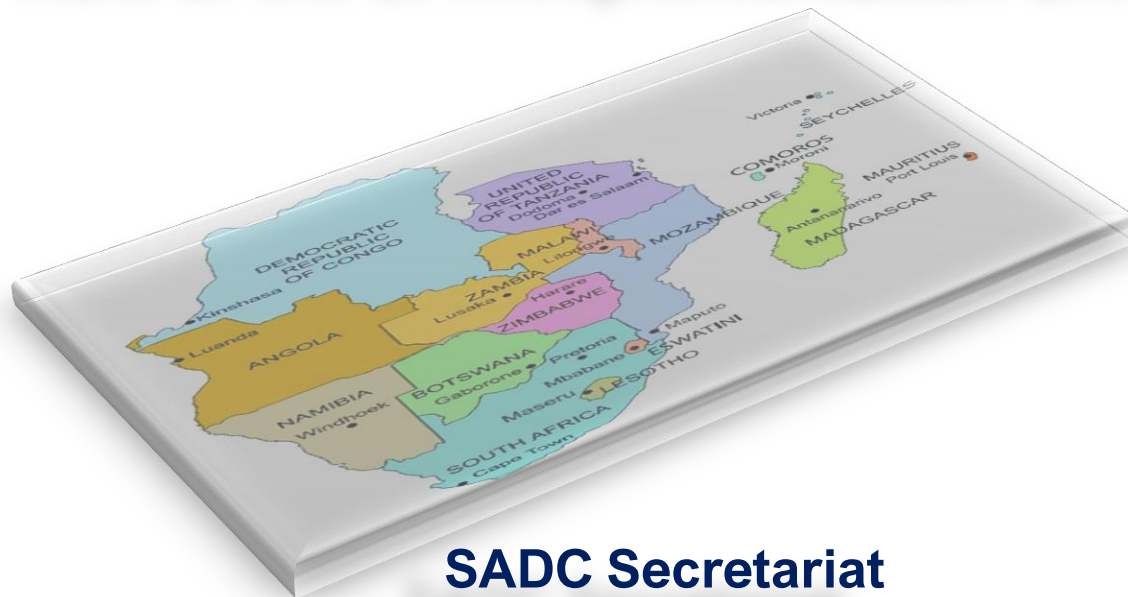


# National Workshop

## Botswana Preliminary Findings on Ex-post evaluation of the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)

### Role of the EPA Implementation Unit



**SADC Secretariat**

**EPA Implementation Unit**

**Presenter: Ms. Hildah Moleofe**

**28 November 2023, Protea Hotel, Masa Square,  
Gaborone**



# BACKGROUND

- The EPA Implementation Unit is housed at the SADC Secretariat under the Industrial Development and Trade Directorate (IDT)
- The Unit's structure was approved by the SADC Council and Summit in March 2004
- Was set up initially to facilitate effective engagement of the SADC EPA States in the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiation process.
- Coordinating the negotiation process and preparing negotiation positions with the SADC EPA States.
- Following the conclusion of the negotiations and the signing of the Agreement, the Unit was retained in the Secretariat
- To provide direct technical support and to facilitate/coordinate the implementation of the Agreement by the SADC EPA States.



# COORDINATION OF EPA IMPLEMENTATION



- Core responsibility of the EPA Unit.
- The Unit is mandated with ensuring that:
  - ✓ SADC EPA implementation structures at regional level are strengthened to effectively coordinate the implementation of the EU-SADC EPA at both national and regional levels;
  - ✓ Implementation of the EU-SADC EPA is reviewed to establish its impact on the stakeholders of the Region;
  - ✓ Building capacity and awareness-raising on relevant provisions of the EPA for improvement in the uptake of the EU-SADC EPA are undertaken;
  - ✓ Enhancing dialogue of public-private sectors and non-state actors on EPA opportunities and other aspects of EPA



# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU-SADC EPA

- A number of stakeholders are involved, among them being the bodies established by the Agreement to manage implementation, such as the:
  - Joint Council (JC)
  - the Trade and Development Committee (TDC) as well as the
  - Special Committees (Customs and Trade Facilitation and Geographical Indicators (GIs) and trade in wines and spirits)
  - Agriculture Partnership,
  - Technical Working Group on EPA Review created to facilitate the EPA review process
- At national level, government agencies, led by the respective ministries of trade implement the Agreement.
- At the regional level, the SADC Secretariat, through the EPA Unit, is taking the lead to assist in coordinating the implementation of the Agreement.
- The implementation of the Agreement has been supported with funding from the EU under the European Development Fund (EDF)



# Achievements thus far

- The Secretariat/Unit has facilitated capacity building and awareness raising on the critical provisions of the EPA such as EU-SADC EPA Rules of Origin, EU-SADC EPA Safeguards, SPS Measures, RoO
- Completion of studies such as SADC EPA Regional Export strategy, Information-packaging on EU Market Requirements for 5 sectors of export potential to EU (i.e. Dried Fruits & Nuts; Herbal Tea; Essential Oils; Vegetable Oils, and Spices); Status Analysis on SADC EPA Rules of Origin implementation and challenges in SADC-EPA Member States;
- The Secretariat has assisted Member States to develop their first national EPA Monitoring and Evaluation Reports and subsequent Consolidated Regional EPA M&E report
- Completion of the first Joint EU-SADC EPA M&E Report
- Through collaboration with other partners, such as GIZ organized cross-regional exchanges on EPA provisions, specifically on trade in services, Trade and Sustainable Development, IPR; where public and private sectors, civil society organisations from SADC EPA, ESA EPA and Carriforum had a dialogue on these EPA related issues to share knowledge and experiences



# On-going EPA related Activities



- Development of the EU-SADC EPA Trade Information Portal – advanced stage- MS to be trained on the use of the tool
- Development of the SADC EPA Trade Promotion Videos – advanced stage – a firm engaged – currently shooting videos in MS
- Training of the SADC EPA States public and private sectors on SPS Measures - Capacitate SADC EPA States on food safety principles and promote general awareness on sanitary requirements
- Capacity building on EU Market requirements
- Planned training on Trade Defence Instruments (TDIs)



# VIEW ON EPA

- EPA is relevant for trade and industrial development of the SADC EPA States since it is aimed at liberalizing trade between the SADC EPA States and the EU, which is in line with the already existing policy direction of these countries as they are pursuing the same under WTO, SACU, COMESA etc.
- However, despite the openness of the EU market for the goods from the region, the MS are still facing huge challenges to take advantage of the agreement **due to** stringent EU market requirements and limited industrial base **and supply side constraints** within the region.
- SADC EPA exports to the EU remain dominated by **raw materials such as** minerals while value added manufactured products are limited except vehicles **(SA)** that experienced huge exports growth to EU market during EPA period



# Conclusions

- Study - Overall levels of trade are different than those before the implementation of the EPA. SADC EPA countries' exports to the EU fluctuated over the past decade but have, on average, been higher in the past five years than they were in the five years before the EPA came into force. – positive impact
- However, the SADC EPA States are still struggling to meet the EU market requirements -to take advantage of the market access,
- EU recently introduced autonomous trade measures-related to Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM);EU Deforestation-free Regulation (EUDR), and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).
- Hence there is need for extensive capacity building for MS states to comply as these measures are affecting all MS







**Thank you!**

