

## MISSION REPORT

**Traveller:** Mathias Spaliviero *Mathias Spaliviero* **Mission period:** 28-31 May 2017  
Senior Human Settlements Officer  
Regional Office for Africa

**Mission area:** Gaborone, Botswana – SADC Secretariat

**Mission purpose:** **To coordinate with the SADC Secretariat to jointly identify follow-up steps to formalise a partnership with the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR)**

### Relevant persons contacted:

Mr. Clement Herbert Kalonga, Senior Programme Officer, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Unit - SADC Secretariat

Mr. Blessing Siwela, Data Management Officer, DRR Unit - SADC Secretariat

Ms. Segametsi Moatlhaping, Liaison Officer, DRR Unit - SADC Secretariat

### Mission highlights

Following the letter sent by the UN-Habitat Executive Director to the SADC Executive Secretary on 29 March 2017 regarding the need to formalize a partnership between the SADC Secretariat and DiMSUR (see Annex 1), a Technical Centre that for the time being only concerns four countries in Southern Africa (i.e. Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros), a technical mission was carried out by UN-Habitat to Gaborone, Botswana. The objective was to identify jointly with the SADC Disaster Risk Reduction Unit a strategy for such a purpose, to be then proposed to the senior management of the SADC Secretariat for appreciation and further implementation.

After a thorough presentation on DiMSUR, especially its potentialities and the added-value it would constitute to SADC, a very fruitful discussion followed, which ended up with the following proposal:

1. Establishing a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SADC Secretariat, UN-Habitat (as main facilitator of the DiMSUR initiative) and DiMSUR (whose Secretariat will soon be recruited). Ideally this MoU could be signed in Maputo, Mozambique, in occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> DiMSUR Executive Board meeting planned in November/December 2017 (exact dates still to be defined).
2. Under this tripartite MoU, the SADC Secretariat could support DiMSUR in enlarging its constituency in Southern Africa by facilitating the process of more countries joining the initiative and thus providing additional credibility to the institution internationally thanks to a reinforced partnership with SADC. On the other hand, the SADC Secretariat could benefit from DiMSUR's experience to: (i) gather and disseminate knowledge about relatively new and important topics in the region such as urban resilience; (ii) organize training sessions and workshops; (iii) allow for exchanges of experiences among SADC

countries in these topics and foment research and partnerships; (iv) use evidence from local implementation to inform regional policies, get additional visibility; (v) mainstream DRR into development planning; and (vi) set up models to strengthen local authorities' role in DRR, climate change adaptation and urban resilience through the Members States.

3. It is acknowledged that the Union of Comoros has made a formal request to join SADC and that until such a request is endorsed, SADC will not engage in any activity in Comoros.
4. The tripartite MoU would allow jointly mobilizing resources; as most immediate opportunity is a proposal under development by UN-Habitat to request 14 million USD to the Adaptation Fund - AF (NB: concept note was already endorsed by the AF Board in March 2017) to implement a project in the four initial DiMSUR countries to strengthen climate urban resilience, in which the SADC DRR Unit could play a key role in implementing part of the planned regional activities.

### **Follow-up actions**

- SADC DRR Unit to follow-up with SADC Secretariat senior management regarding the results of the UN-Habitat mission; a follow-up Skype call could be organized between SADC and UN-Habitat during the week of 12 to 16 June 2017;
- Define jointly a roadmap to the drafting of the tripartite MoU until its potential signature by the end of 2017 in Maputo, Mozambique;
- Define more precisely the nature of the collaboration between the SADC Secretariat, UN-Habitat and DiMSUR in the implementation of the Adaptation Fund proposal, considering its potential approval in the coming months.