



## **SADCSTAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HOLDS ITS THIRD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

*[Compiled by Mrs Maureen P Mutasa]*

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The third meeting of the SADCSTAN Executive Committee was held from 8-9 June 2006 at the Tivoli Hotel in Maputo, Mozambique. All the Executive Committee members attended the meeting including the new Director of INNOQ – Mr A F Siteo who has replaced Mrs G da Silva as the Director of INNOQ and consequently as the Vice Chairperson of SADCSTAN. In order to ensure a thorough handover to Mr Siteo, Mrs G da Silva attended the third SADCSTAN Executive Committee meeting together with three other observers from INNOQ. The recently appointed d SADC SQAM Expert – Dr O S Chinyamakobvu also attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Finalize Executive Committee procedures;
- Act on resolutions and matters arising from the ninth SADCSTAN annual meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia on 3 April 2006.
- Plan and finalize arrangements for the WTO/TBT Enquiry Point workshop;
- Plan for the follow up workshop for SADCSTAN operational officers on how to run a SADCSTAN Technical Committee (TC) Secretariat; and
- Review, discuss and update the SADCSTAN Project proposal under the European Union (EU) project on standardization, accreditation, quality assurance and metrology (SQAM).

The SADCSTAN Executive Committee meeting procedures which cover issues such as frequency of meetings, circulation of notice of meeting, agenda preparation, circulation of meeting documents and minutes and quorum were reviewed discussed and approved at the third SADCSTAN Executive Committee meeting. Procedures will now be published and circulated by the Secretariat to all members of SADCSTAN Executive Committee for implementation.

Noting the poor response to the SADCSTAN website survey, the meeting agreed that the survey questionnaire be re-circulated to a wider target group and that the feedback be reviewed at the fourth SADCSTAN Executive Committee meeting.

With respect to the questionnaire for accepting documents from other sectors, only one response received from PIESA was evaluated. It was agreed that if the PIESA standard is based on a national standard, then the project would start at stage 1: New Work Item Proposal of the SADCSTAN procedures. On the other hand if the PIESA standard is based on an international standard then it would start at stage 4: Enquiry point of the SADCSTAN procedure.

The meeting reviewed matters arising from minutes and resolutions of the 9<sup>th</sup> SADCSTAN Annual meeting and agreed on the specific actions required to progress these activities. In particular the meeting:

- Approved the wording for the revision of SADCSTAN TC procedures and tasked the Secretariat to circulate the revised procedures to all SADCSTAN members, Secretariats and Operational Officers.
- Requested the Chairperson to follow up with the European Standardization Committee (CEN) on the SADCSTAN/CEN Statement of Cooperation, which she had submitted, to CEN for consideration following its approval at the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of SADCSTAN.
- Agreed to approach various SADC stakeholders with an invitation to them to become SADCSTAN stakeholder members, all in an effort to involve more stakeholders in SADCSTAN activities at all levels.
- Agreed to intensify SADCSTAN promotional activities but to first develop the marketing strategy and promotional campaign with the assistance of a consultant subject to availability of funding for the project.
- Reviewed and approved the SADCSTAN/CARICOM Regional Organization for Standardization and Quality (CROSQ) Statement of Cooperation and tasked the Chairperson to submit the document for consideration and approval by CROSQ.
- Identified actions and responsibilities to progress the SADCSTAN technical programme including assignment of the new work items approved at the 9<sup>th</sup> SADCSTAN annual meeting. The Executive Committee also discussed the need to establish a SADCSTAN Technical Management Board/Committee to manage the SADCSTAN technical programme and agreed to discuss the matter further at the follow up workshop for operational officers.
- Reviewed comments received from SADCSTAN Committee members on the draft travel policy, which had been adopted from SADC Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) and agreed to submit the final document to the SQAM expert for harmonization amongst structures.
- Considered the feedback received from members on the conduct of the 9<sup>th</sup> SADCSTAN annual meeting and took note of areas for improvement such as:
  - ◆ Deadlines for circulation of meeting documents;
  - ◆ Length of annual meeting;

- ◆ Guidelines, for TC secretariats progress reports etc.
- Considered the following key issues identified from the country reports and noted that various actions were already underway to address these issues:
  - ◆ Limited resources to undertake regional secretariat work;
  - ◆ Lack of national TC infrastructure hampering consultation process;
  - ◆ Unavailability of texts in Portuguese and French hampering regional harmonization work;
  - ◆ Poor voting performance by members in the harmonization work.

Last but not least considerable time was spent updating the SADCSTAN project proposal under the EU/SADC project on SQAM.

In her closing remarks, Mrs Maureen P Mutasa the Chairperson of SADCSTAN paid tribute to Mrs G da Silva the outgoing Director of INNOQ and Vice Chairperson of SADCSTAN for her commitment, objectivity and valuable contributions through her period not only as a SADCSTAN Executive Committee member but also her long period as SADCSTAN Committee member. She wished Ms da Silva well in her future endeavours. The Chairperson also thanked the host INNOQ for the excellent arrangement for the meeting.

The next SADCSTAN Executive Committee meeting will be held from 2 – 3 November 2006 in Maseru, Lesotho.

**For more information Please contact:**

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