

SARPN



## SEMINAR REPORT

### Human Security, Poverty and Conflict in SADC<sup>1</sup>

*Human  
Security,  
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Conflict in  
SADC*

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The Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPN) based in South Africa and the Institute of Social Development and Peace (ISDP) based in Mauritius, co-hosted a one day seminar on 'Human Security, Poverty and Conflict in SADC'<sup>2</sup>.

The objectives of the seminar were to:

- Examine the current status and responses to prevailing security threats, including poverty, in the SADC region
- Profile current trends with respect to the causal - effect relationship between human security (including poverty), non violent conflicts and stability
- Identify prospects for enhancing the profile of the human security debate in relation to the conventional security debate.

#### Introductions and welcoming remarks

Trevor Ncube, the Chairperson of SARPN chaired the opening ceremony and welcomed all those present. He was encouraged by the fact that the seminar was able to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners from the region to debate on a thematic issue that was gaining importance across the world and particularly within the African continent.

The timeliness and relevance of the seminar was echoed by the Executive Director of SARPN, Sue Mbaya who noted that the African continent was at the centre of multiple unrest and higher levels of uncertainties making the life of its people more vulnerable and precarious. The rise of HIV/AIDS, greater levels of poverty, recurrent conflicts, famines, gender inequality and poor service delivery were just some of the bad news obstructing the progress of the African continent. However, Sue Mbaya was quick to reassure that this bad news was to a certain extent balanced by some good news. A greater focus on poverty and its causes - the setting up of the Millennium Developments Goals (MDGs) had offered some hope that poverty might one day be eradicated.

At the level of democracy and governance, the creation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) offered a road map towards building an African approach to solving African problems and in the process allowed its people to benefit from these new forms of partnership. Sue Mbaya, then situated the role and work undertaken by SARPN which was essentially to network across boundaries and bring different stakeholders together to address the issues relating to poverty in a holistic and integrated manner.

According to her, one of the direct outcomes of the seminar would be to provide the necessary material for a position paper on human security, poverty and conflict in SADC. This would hopefully help to shape contemporary debates on these issues and accordingly help towards devising policies relevant to the African countries and its people.

<sup>1</sup> Rapporteur: Roukaya Kasenally, ISDP

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The Executive Director of SARP, ended her speech by thanking the different funding partners - the Ford Foundation and the Conflict and Governance Facility (CAGE) a partnership project between the South African Government and the European Commission. She also extended a warm thanks to the co-host of the seminar, ISDP and hoped that this would be the start of an active partnership between SARP and ISDP.

Sheila Bunwaree, President of the ISDP took the opportunity to briefly introduce the newly created NGO/think tank. According to her, the seminar and partnership between SARP and ISDP offered an excellent opportunity to bring the small islands of the Indian Ocean within the fold of the African continent and thus develop a Pan African agenda. She proceeded to introduce the Honorary President of ISDP - Mr Cassam Uteem for the opening address. Mr Uteem, former President of the Republic of Mauritius, is currently a Board Member of the Institute for Democratic and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), a founding member of the 'Haut Conseil de la Francophonie' as well as Honorary President of various local networks.

Mr Uteem extended a warm welcome to all the overseas participants and from the onset congratulated both SARP and ISDP for their excellent initiative in organising this one-day seminar. For Mr Uteem, we are living in a world of multiple contradictions and paradoxes. According to him, both traditional development models and globalisation have essentially served and continue to serve the interests of the few whilst leaving the many in a state of destitution and want. This growing gap between the opulent-few and the destitute-many was seen as a cause for concern as it often lead to an environment where the security of a person and by extension a community, is threatened, where poverty is amplified and conflict is bred.

Central to the debate around human security, poverty and conflict is the human being. It is indeed interesting to note the shift from a purely state-centric notion of security to one embracing the human condition. However, the real challenge lies in the fact, that countries/governments especially within the African continent must develop and accordingly apply this inclusive and integrated approach to the concept of security. Mr Uteem was please to note that in the last decade or so, there has been a multiplication of efforts to attempt to address the plight of the poor, disfranchised and displaced people. For him the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) offered an excellent opportunity to move away from the 'business as usual' approach. He was particularly concerned with the state of the African continent especially in relation to Goal One of the MDG - the eradication of poverty and hunger. If matters continue to proceed at this pace, Africa would not meet the prescribed target by 2015. Another matter of concern was that of international trade and the insignificant portion that Africa presently occupies. According to him, continent-grown strategies and mechanisms such as NEPAD and APRM are good news but once again the challenge lies in transforming rhetoric into action that matters and is relevant to the livelihoods of the millions living in the African continent.

Mr Uteem also made reference to the Mauritian context and its long history since independence, of promoting pro-poor policies and growth and the successive governments 'resistance' to trimming down the Mauritian welfare state. Developing and building strong welfare states especially in this neo-liberal age were identified as a challenge for the African continent. However, securing the livelihoods of people through welfare packages constitutes an important facet of the democratisation of development.

Mr Uteem then concluded by wishing all those present a fruitful exchange of ideas and thoughts, which, would contribute to contemporary thinking and action of putting the African continent on the development track.

Trevor Ncube thanked Mr Uteem for a very thought provoking address as he had set the tone for the seminar. Mr Ncube, then open the floor for discussion.

The questions addressed to Mr Uteem were essentially about the success of the 'Mauritian model'. Mr Uteem preferred to talk about the Mauritian experience as opposed to the Mauritian

model. He felt that there was no substitute for hard work and visionary leadership and to a certain extent the development path that the country had charted out in the early 70s combined with the ability to negotiate preferential tariffs and markets allowed Mauritius to sustain growth. To a question concerning the role of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Mr Uteem felt that the future lay in regional co-operation. However, it was imperative that countries in the sub-region facilitate, invest and consolidate such relationships.

### **Session One: Human Security overview**

Trevor Ncube, then invited Chris Landsberg and Sheila Bunwaree to present their respective papers.

Chris Landsberg, Director of the Centre for Policy Studies in Johannesburg presented his paper, entitled - 'From Regime Security, to Human Security to Human Development: The Case of Southern Africa'. He explained the shift from state centred security to that of human security where the concept of human security as embodied in the Human Development Report (1994) and more recently in the Human Security Now Report (2003) laid emphasis on the need for greater preventive strategies and addressing root-causes. According to Chris Landsberg, the MDGs have been crucial to the positioning of the human security debate. He maintained that, from a policy regime point of view, the MDGs are the closest thing to a human security policy paradigm. However, the very challenge remains in the transformation of this wish-list into a do-list.

The value behind a human security approach was that it aimed at being anti-discriminatory, proposed to root out gender disparities and offered stability to internally displaced people. However, problems exist especially at the conceptual level as the definition around human security remains too sketchy and broad. According to Chris Landsberg, there is the need to give a 'substantive meaning to the concept so that it could have utility for research, activism, practice and policy'. A more utilitarian approach to human security ensures that it is not viewed in isolation but is part of a more comprehensive set of variables and factors and where greater levels of interconnectivity and co-operation exist between different stakeholders.

Chris Landsberg then moved on to discuss the prevailing insecurity landscape in southern Africa, which is saddled with all sorts of problems making it difficult to meet the MDGs time line. The southern African region presents something of a paradox as over the years it has witnessed a reduction in violent conflict as well as a rise in the process of democratisation but at the same time the region has seen a deepening of the levels of inequality and poverty.

In conclusion, Chris Landsberg called upon the southern African and African states to promote pro-poor and people-centred social policies. According to him, the major challenges facing the Southern African region were the weakness of the state and its institutions, growing levels of poverty, increasing inequality as well as underdevelopment. The way forward was to promote the idea of sustainable human development in which human security, state security, peace, governance, democratisation and economic development become important components.

Sheila Bunwaree, based at the University of Mauritius, presented a paper entitled: "Contemporary International Economic Relations - Enhancing Human Security through a Civil Society Response". Sheila Bunwaree made reference to Samuel Huntington's 'Clash of Civilisations' (1996) which argues, "important and dangerous conflicts will not be between social classes, rich and poor, or other economically defined groups but between people belonging to different cultural identities". According to Sheila Bunwaree there is a central point missing in Huntington's thesis - that of citizenship and rights. In fact, the guarantee of citizenship and rights (by the state and civil society) could to a certain extent ease the tension caused by group identities and identity politics.

She then proceeded to discuss the human security architecture laying emphasis on the shift from state security to the security of persons/citizens. For Sheila Bunwaree, the right to food, the right to education, the right to health, the right to a safe and sound environment and the

right to shelter constituted the human security architecture. However, the forces of neoliberalism pose a major threat to human security since the former brings in its wake a deepening of poverty and a rise in conflict. The development of African-grown initiatives such as NEPAD have been viewed in certain quarters as bringing back development to the people of Africa. However, Sheila Bunwaree was rather sceptical of NEPAD as she felt that it echoed too closely the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPS) of the World Bank and IMF. According to her, for NEPAD to work and make a difference to the lives of ordinary African citizens it should be understood, shaped and owned by the people.

The issue of governance was also explored in the paper and the presenter made a plea for a more enlarged and inclusive governance structure where different stakeholders - be it the state, the international community or civil society played an active role. According to Sheila Bunwaree, civil society has a key role to play within the human security debate. In fact, it was refreshing to see the stepping up of the visibility of protest in the streets of Seattle, Genoa or more recently in Gleneagles. However, the role and power of civil society should not be overtly exaggerated and in the process glorified. What is required is a partnership between the state and relevant partners and it is only then that peace, stability and security can be achieved within the African continent.

Trevor Ncube thanked both presenters and invited questions from the floor. The significance and value of the state was an issue that generated interest among the various participants specifically around the need for a fully-fledged welfare state versus a minimalist state. The question was posed, can Africa given its present socio-economic situation, afford a strong and interventionist state? NEPAD's role in generating real opportunities for the continent was also asked. The main challenge was to ensure that NEPAD did not remain a club but rather brought on board different stakeholders. Here it was deemed essential that civil society be an active participant.

### **Session Two: Regional organisations, UN and Human Security frameworks**

The second session was chaired by Mr Mohamed Vayid who has had a long and rich career in the Mauritian corporate world. The session was entitled 'Regional Organisations, UN and Human Security Frameworks' and had four paper presentations.

The session started with Naison Ngoma's paper - 'A Conceptual Drive towards Analysing African Human Security Challenges: Prospects for a Security Community in Southern Africa'. Naison Ngoma is a researcher at the Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria. His paper was essentially based on his recently published book - 'Prospects for a Security Community in Southern Africa'. The main objective of the paper was to elucidate the value of a security community approach in analysing developments in the Southern African region.

Naison Ngoma offered an overview of the debates around the concept of human security as well as a general profile of the security community and in the process evokes the strong linkage that exists between these two concepts. Ngoma discussed the non-African nature of the security community paradigm and the extent to which it has not yet been applied to the African continent. Ngoma believed that it was high time that the continent develop an African approach to analyse and integrate the security community paradigm. Naison Ngoma then focused on the security community models. Mention was made of the Deutch and Adler/Barnett schools that constitute the building bloc to the security community paradigm. Ngoma expressed his preference for the Adler/ Barnett model as it seeks to comprehensively 'unpack' the security community paradigm by providing a framework of analysis that is periodised in phases - nascent, ascendant and mature. These three phases describe the developmental stages of a security community, which starts with the desire to co-ordinate relations through increased exchanges and interactions. This stage is enhanced through increasing the networks designed to contribute to the reduction of fear by members of the emerging community and finally reaches its culminating point with the creation of loosely-coupled or tightly-coupled security communities.

Ngoma then discusses the application of the Adler and Barnett model of security community to southern Africa. He charted out the historical evolution of the region and identifies five distinct time periods namely up to 1975, up to 1980, up to 1990, after 1990 and after 1994. These different time periods show the search for a security-cum-development regional groupings in which racial survival, political emancipation and economic co-operation have been the major driving forces. The creation of diverse regional structures such the Federation of the Southern African Economic Community (FSAEC) as well as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are no doubt cases in point of the collaborative spirit that engaged those from the region.

Ngoma concluded that the southern African region was moving in the direction of a security community and is seriously attempting to engage a variety of human security challenges through the various policies and structures that have evolved over time.

The next presenter was Sybert Liebenberg from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. His presentation entitled 'Developmental Peace Missions Theory' offered a comprehensive analysis of the recurrent failures of peace missions within the African continent. He challenged the UN's current 'complex peace operation' which uses four different instruments to respond to conflicts: conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The term 'complex peace operation' is used by the UN to denote the inclusion of peace building mandates into peacekeeping operations but unfortunately to date its success rate remains very limited.

According to Liebenberg, there is need for a simultaneous 'rolling out' of the four instruments coupled with a developmental approach to conflict management and peace building. This new approach forms the basis of the concept of 'Developmental Peace Missions', which, calls for a developmental approach, quicker mobilisation of reconstruction and developmental resources and embarking on these initiatives in unison with security officers. The theoretical base of the 'Developmental Peace Missions' is the systems thinking perspective which using tools and techniques to 'see' and understand the underlying structure of conflict in Africa. In fact, its non-linearity approach to conflict as opposed to the 'complex peace operation' linear approach allows the former to propose more sustainable solutions.

There is no doubt that the 'Developmental Peace Missions' approach requires a fair amount of investment be it at the level of capital, human resources and time. In fact, what is required in an integrated and concerted approach where different actors, agencies and institutions involved in a mission must plan and work together under a common strategic framework to ensure that combined security and developmental efforts are started as soon as possible and that these efforts form part of a larger framework for long-term development and reconstruction. In his presentation, Sybert Liebenberg stressed the fact that there is need to translate theory into practice when it comes to the 'Developmental Peace Missions' and this depends to a great extent on the willingness and ability of key institutional role players to make this happen.

At this point, the Chair of the session thanked the two presenters for their very insightful presentations and invited questions/thoughts from the floor. Questions were wide ranging and dealt with the problem of plundering elites who often act as barriers to sustainable peace, the role/responsibility of a more active civil society and intellectuals in providing a viable opinion platform as well as the problem of maintaining and sustaining peace within the African continent. The two presenters agreed that all the questions were indeed important and constituted the base for a sustainable approach to peace. All these intervention strategies would take time as peace is a long haul process and it is only through a concerted approach that matters will evolve positively. One of the floor participants made reference to foreign military presence in the likes of military bases/troops stationed in certain countries/territories deemed strategic and the importance of assessing such presence and its ramifications for stability and autonomy of the region.

The Chair thanked the floor participants for their questions and invited Adekeye Adebajo and

Angela Ndinga-Muvumba from the Centre for Conflict Resolution, Cape Town to make their presentation.

Adekeye Adebajo's presentation "UN reform and Africa: A Dialogue of the Deaf or a Clash of Civilisations?" adequately translated the position of weakness faced by the African continent. His paper assesses Africa's interests in UN reform in order to strengthen its position in the areas of conflict management and peacebuilding, governance and economic development and trade. At the level of conflict management and peacebuilding, Adebajo believes that there is an urgent need to strengthen the UN's role in peacekeeping but this must be imperatively accompanied by the dissemination of knowledge about the UN and its ability to serve the continent's needs. A recent proposal towards the creation of a Peacebuilding Commission, that has the backing of both the UN High-Level Panel and the UN Secretary-General, is an important step towards improving UN post-conflict planning. No doubt Africa can benefit from such a framework although levels of scepticism are already being expressed, as the Peacebuilding Commission will essentially focus on post-conflict reconstruction as opposed to conflict prevention.

Democratic governance is a prerequisite for the continent's economic development and security. In the recent years, there have been a host of African initiatives such as NEPAD, APRM and ECOSOC. Unfortunately such initiatives have not always been kindly viewed among some of the African member states. Therefore, there is an urgent need to ensure that such initiatives invest in rallying the African continent to become real Pan African processes. Trade and aid is indeed areas that require Africa to speak with a united voice. At the moment, world international trade and aid is extremely skewed - the African continent is getting mere crumbs and it is high time that the rich world commits itself to substantially decreasing unfair and discriminatory practices. The concluding thought of Adebajo is a wake up call to both the African continent as well as the rich world. All the publicity around the various campaigns and summits to save Africa are paved with good intentions but what is important is to make them happen and in the process to bring Africa onto the development track.

Angela Ndinga-Muvumba's presentation 'Towards an African HIV/AIDS Policy: No more business as usual' was a harsh reality check on the spread of the pandemic across the African continent and more specifically within sub-Saharan Africa. Recent reports available through UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation have indicated that the region is shifting into the next stage of the disease - mortality. The aim of her paper is to establish the live link between HIV/AIDS and the human security concept as well as to take stock of the various strategies that have been developed to attempt to contain the pandemic.

From a historical perspective, Ndinga-Muvumba linked the spread of HIV/AIDS to a combination of destabilising conditions ranging from social transformation to weak social structures. If the pandemic is 'allowed' to continue to generate a death trail across the continent this will have a direct bearing on states/societies' efforts to reduce poverty, manage conflicts, and democratise political participation - hence contributing to create greater levels of human insecurity across the African continent.

No doubt African governments have repeatedly vowed to address HIV/AIDS and there have been a series of pan-African responses. The outcomes have not always been positive and this is essentially due to insufficient financial resources, lack of human resources/technical capacity, HIV/AIDS stigma and weak monitoring/evaluation capacity. However, a recent AU initiative - the HIV/AIDS Continental Strategic Plan seems to offer hope. The plan is holistic and inclusive in its approach to HIV/AIDS and more importantly there are undercurrents of a human security perspective in both the conceptualisation and future implementation of the strategy.

There is no doubt that efforts to control and contain HIV/AIDS must be linked to a broader and deeper policy agenda as the human capital of the continent cannot continue to be depleted due to a 'business as usual' reaction to the pandemic.

Questions and reflections from the floor dealt essentially with the MDGs 2015 target and the role of civil society within the APRM. If the African continent proceeds at its current pace, there is a strong certainty that it will miss the MDGs 2015 target. This situation creates a sense

of urgency as to the plight of the continent and the need to scale up intervention strategies among different stakeholders and across the continent. It is imperative that the continent moves forward and not backwards. The APRM has had to face several criticisms pertaining to the lack of civil society involvement. If APRM is ever to establish itself as credible and 'legitimate' peer control benchmark it is important that it adopts an inclusive approach.

### **Session Three: Case Studies in Human Security**

The third session entitled 'Case Studies from the Region' was chaired by Ms D Nupen, SARPN Board Member. The first paper in this session was jointly presented by Ephrem Tadesse and Richard Smith based at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV). The paper entitled 'Human Security and Public Participation: Positive Forces for Change or Fuel for Further Violence' is part of an ongoing project called 'Consensus-building Approaches and Policy Coordination Mechanisms: Responsive and Responsible Policy Formulation in South Africa'.

The paper starts by describing *ubuntu* - an age-old African world-view tradition which weaves together the humanity of each individual, in relation to the existence of, compassion and respect for and sharing and living with others. According to the presenters *ubuntu* was at the heart of the human security concept. The nexus between democracy and human security was also explored and emphasis laid on the significance of public participation in providing long-term institutional assurance of the survival, livelihood and dignity of human beings. The presenters referred to Nobel prize winner Amartya Sen's instrumental value and constructive importance of democracy in building not only representative but also participatory democracies.

The role of the state in relation to human security was also examined. The main question was whether the state has the ability to solely provide peace and security to its citizens. The presenters provided a whole range of factors explaining the steady decline of the state and hence its inability to 'guarantee' solely the security of its citizens. What needs to be promoted and sustained is a genuine, constructive and meaningful partnership between the state and its citizens in matters pertaining to human security as it is only through this sort of established interaction and cooperation that differences in policy direction can be understood and accommodated without the need to resort to violence. Their paper then briefly outlined the expected future of the project and demonstrates how an action research component will further emphasise and interrogate aspects that were proposed in the paper.

The next presenter was Shyam Reddha from Mauritius and his paper entitled - 'Human Security, Poverty and Conflict - The Mauritian Perspective'. Reddha categorised Mauritius as a small, vulnerable island, limited in resources and highly dependent on protected quotas and preferential tariffs. According to him this state of affairs acts as a direct threat to the sustainable development, livelihood and security of the Mauritian people.

Mauritius is often cited as an economic 'model' that had successfully negotiated its transformation from a low income mono-crop economy to a middle income economy based on sugar, manufacturing, tourism and financial services. This has served Mauritius well but strong warning signals are currently being felt with the guaranteed price and production of sugar on the European market being questioned, the disappearance of protected markets for Mauritian textile/garments and the inability for Mauritius to remain a competitive world class destination. With most of the key sectors experiencing an uncertain future, there is great cause for concern especially for people living at the lower rungs of the socio-economic ladder. Reddha's paper makes reference to the fact that poverty is becoming a more visible facet of the Mauritian society and that despite the 'generous' welfare package provided by the state, contemporary Mauritius is faced with a growing number of unemployed people, squatters/homeless communities, escalation in crime and violence related activities as well as a growing inequity in wealth distribution. The current Government came to power a couple of months ago with the strong slogan of 'democratising the economy' and the expectation in its promised delivery is high among the Mauritian population. There is no doubt that Mauritius is

sitting on a time bomb and it is imperative that all the necessary forces are harnessed to avoid a social explosion.

The Chair thanked both presenters and invited participants to asked questions. The questions/reflections essentially dealt with the challenges of ensuring real and valuable public participation. In a number of African countries certain civil society networks are 'chosen' as they conveniently espouse the agenda of those in power. The real challenge lies in the ability for a genuine politics of resistance to operate without any fear or threat of being blacklisted. The Mauritian 'model' continued to generate interest among the participants. There was no doubt that the said model served the country and its people well but it was high time to move away from the comfort zone of the model, as Mauritius is currently facing a number of important challenges.

The third presenter was Claude Kabemba from the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) and his paper was entitled - 'The Democratic Republic of Congo: Political Transition and the Postponement of the Human Security Issues'. Kabemba painted a rather grim picture of the transition process in DRC as he believed that there has been no real change for the millions of Congolese who continue to suffer gross human rights abuses and live in conditions of absolute misery. Transition in DRC has been essentially about ending the war, creating political stability and ensuring that elections take place. According to Kabemba real political stability cannot be envisaged when the human security and human development dimension are not even part of the equation.

The transition process in DRC was essentially triggered and supported by external forces but according to Kabemba it is equally important that such a process benefits from efforts from within the country itself, as it is only then that real ownership of the transition process is acquired. Unfortunately, there has been very little internal coordinated efforts as the DRC, suffers from a plundering elite (more bent on ensuring their political survival then alleviating the suffering of the Congolese people), weak political leadership, a fragmented civil society and rampant corruption.

There is no doubt that the DRC is currently at the crossroads of its existence and choosing the right track where human being and their security are at the centre depends to a large extent on the coordinated efforts from those within the country, from countries with the African continent as well as the international community. Indeed it would be a pity and waste of resources if the transition process were to reproduce an uncaring and depleted society that would replicate the failures of the past.

Shani Winterstein based at SARPN made the fourth and last presentation - 'Human Security, Migration and Children in SADC'. The presentation started by depicting the positive and negative relationship that exists between human security and migration in the region and went on to describes the harsh conditions faced by some migrants especially children. Shani Winterstein from the very start questioned the assumption that there is a clear difference between forced and voluntary migration. According to her it is increasingly difficult to categorise/label migrants along those lines as it is important to establish the reasons that cause people to migrate and whether these reasons are a matter of choice or compulsion. She then situated the position of children (and more specifically that of unaccompanied children) within the migration debate. It is the unaccompanied and clandestine migrant child that is the most exposed and vulnerable as the latter falls outside all forms of national, regional and international protection frameworks. Such children are often travelling across borders due to poverty and a lack of human security within their country and in the process fall victim of a harsh environment where they have no status, no rights and no protection.

The presentation listed key challenges to ensure the protection and care of the unaccompanied child migrant. Many of these challenges were interconnected and require a holistic and integrated approach where intra and inter country cooperation and consensus is sought to ensure that child migration does not create a humanitarian catastrophe within the region.

Questions from the floor dealt with ensuring the sustainability and continuity of peace in post



transition DRC especially when all the external actors are no longer in the country. Indeed, the concepts of sustainability coupled with the accountability of those in power are crucial factors in avoiding a return to the pre-transition phase. The need for a more involved civil society network was once more emphasised. On the 'Human security, Migration and Children in SADC' presentation clarifications were sought concerning the legal definition of a child especially in terms of age and whether there was any data concerning the number of unaccompanied children crossing the borders. Shani Winterstein reiterated the absence of such information and felt that there was an urgent need to invest in research and networks, which would trace and support these clandestine and vulnerable migrants.

The concluding remarks were made by Dr. Sehoai Santho, a board member of SARP, who thanked all for participating and presented a 20 minute video on the future of SADC. The video provided a small snapshot of the challenges that the SADC region faced both during and in post conflict situations.

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