

# SADC-CNGO

## Southern African Development Community – Council of Non-Governmental Organisations

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27 September 2006

Dear Friends

Re: 2<sup>nd</sup> SADC Civil Society Forum Report

Attached is the 2<sup>nd</sup> SADC Civil Society Forum Proceedings report which took place from 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at Khotsong Lodge, Thaba Bosio, Lesotho. The forum, themed "Democratic Governance and Regional Economic Integration", represented a major development in the road towards strengthening civil society engagement with regional policy and development processes. In attendance were about 120 participants, and papers presented were of such high quality as they came from the specialists in various areas.

To the above extent, we are grateful to all participants and various presentations that were made from the following organisations:

EISA, Human Rights Institute of South Africa (HURISA), The Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR), AFRODAD, Centre for Policy Studies, Southern Africa Poverty Reduction Network(SARPN), Open Society for Southern Africa (OSISA), Southern Africa Trust (SAT), NEPAD Secretariat, DFID, WLSA-Lesotho, SAIER, NEPRU and SALAN. We are further indebted to Dr. Thomaz Salomao, Executive Secretary, SADC Secretariat for keynote address and Dr. Timothy Thahana, Hon. Minister of finance, Lesotho, and incoming chair of SADC Council of Ministers.

We also acknowledge the support of colleagues from the Lesotho Council of Non Governmental Organisations (L.C.N) for the wonderful coordination and logistical arrangements under extreme circumstances.

The workshop would not have been possible without the generous support of the Commonwealth Foundation, The Southern Africa Trust and the Freidrich Ebert Foundation and for this we are indeed grateful and hope that they continue to strengthen civil society in the region.

The outcomes of the forum contain activities that need implementation. Please read the report, and share with us your ideas for implementation and the role your organization can play in this regard. We will convene the steering committee to develop implementation strategies as soon as resources permit.

Yours in Regional Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abie Dithhake', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Abie Dithhake  
General Secretary