

## **THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN RESOURCE GOVERNANCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

**HARARE, ZIMBABWE – 28-29 June, 2013**

We the representatives of political parties from Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe gathered here in Harare, Zimbabwe at a conference on the Role of Political Parties in Resource Governance in Southern Africa on 28-29 June 2013:

### **RECOGNISING that:**

1. Despite the abundance of natural resources in Africa generally and southern Africa in particular, the continent is faced with widening levels of poverty and inequality;
2. Natural resources have the potential to stimulate and sustain development at national and regional levels, and to contribute significantly towards poverty alleviation, the development of local economies, job creation, safeguarding of community rights and environmental protection;
3. Natural resource governance is a human, social and economic rights issue;
4. There are serious challenges facing the extractive sector in relation to transparency, accountability, public participation and the weak human and technical capacity of African states to negotiate with investors on a level playing field; and
5. Political parties have a critical role to play in improving the governance of natural resources and ensuring that resources emanating from their exploitation contribute to equitable and inclusive sustainable development;

### **CONCERNED with:**

6. The secrecy surrounding mining contracts and the continued violation of laws and principles pertaining to access to information;
7. The corruption and lack of information along the entire mining value chain and how revenues are optimised and utilised;

8. The continued violation of national and regional laws as well as international laws and standards by mining companies;
9. The selective application and implementation of existing legislative frameworks within the extractive industries;
10. The limited linkages and opportunities to participate within the mining sector as well as with the rest of the economy; and
11. The adverse environmental, labour and social impact of mining operations, if done in an unsustainable and irresponsible manner;

**AWARE of:**

12. Continental and regional instruments and policies such as the Africa Mining Vision, the SADC Mining Harmonisation Framework and the SADC Parliamentary Barometer for Natural Resource Governance that are radically transformative in terms of empowerment, and enhancing development capacities and redistribution;
13. The existence of global Regimes of Restraint such as Publish What You Pay, the Revenue Watch Institute, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and the Kimberley Process;
14. The significance of Regimes of Responsibility that are home-grown such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and national laws and legislations;
15. The contribution of the mining sector to broad-based industrialisation on the continent;

**CALL UPON OUR GOVERNMENTS to:**

16. Play an active developmental and regulatory role, and invest returns from natural resources into ensuring key socio-economic rights – such as access to health, education and water – and improving public services and environmental protection;
17. Put in place mechanisms to enhance the understanding and integration of applicable international legal and policy instruments, such as those that promote equity, participation, accountability and transparency;
18. Support the diversification of the economy and reduce the reliance on the mining sector alone;
19. Democratise the process of formulating natural resource and development policies;

20. Align national mining policies to the Africa Mining Vision and other regional mining policy instruments;
21. Ensure access to information and invest in improving technical knowhow on the different aspects of this sector;
22. Promote active participation and ownership of the principles of the African Mining Vision and the SADC Parliamentary Barometer for Natural Resource Governance;
23. Integrate the extractive sector into rural economies and develop models for community development agreements;

**And HEREBY COMMIT to**

24. Formulate and popularise policies on equitable natural resource management and include them in party manifestos;
25. Encourage dialogue within our political parties on the importance, and institutionalisation, of the key principles of natural resource governance;
26. Lobby our political parties on the urgent need to transform the extractive sector and the importance of inter-party dialogue and collaboration across party lines;
27. Lobby our political parties to take a bold approach to, and critically revisit, existing national mining and development policies, and propose alternative policy frameworks that are aligned to the Africa Mining Vision, SADC Mining Harmonisation Framework and the SADC Parliamentary Barometer;
28. Ensure that our political parties are clear about their responsibilities and that they monitor the negotiations around the extraction of natural resources, which should be guided by national development interest and needs;

**EXPRESS our profound gratitude to:**

29. SAPES TRUST, the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) and OSISA for their collaboration in organising this workshop and call upon them to support efforts at the continental, regional and national levels;
30. The Government and people of Zimbabwe for their hospitality and welcoming spirit.

*Done at SAPES TRUST Conference Centre, Harare, Zimbabwe on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2013*