



Minutes of the hybrid

Regional CSTL Technical Committee Meeting 15 February 2022

Held in Cape Town and remotely, via Zoom



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**



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PRESENTATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

CSTL Report	J Norins
Follow up to COVID research study	Y Tagwireyi
ESA Commitment Update	L Kumboneki
Youth Agency Research	F Reygan
FutureLife-Now! Update	M Cockerill

** Presentations will be disseminated to delegates and uploaded on the CSTL and MIET AFRICA websites: www.cstlsadc.com; www.mietafrica.com*

ABBREVIATIONS

CYPF	Child and Youth Participation Framework
ESA	East and Southern Africa
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

MEETING INFORMATION

Chairperson: Maureen Maguza-Tembo. Deputy Director: School Health & Nutrition, Malawi Ministry of Education

Scribe: Michael Main (MIET Africa)

Attendance: See attendance register

Format: The meeting was a hybrid of in-person and remote (via Zoom). Virtual delegates were asked to pose questions and make comments through the Chat facility, some of which are included (verbatim) at the end of the relevant topics.

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting commenced at 09h05.

Dr Sannasse (SADC Secretariat) introduced the chairperson, Ms Maguza-Tembo representing Malawi as the current SADC chair. The chair welcomed delegates from all Member States, as well as representatives for SADC, SDC, MIET AFRICA and other partners.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance: see register attached.

All Member States were present, with the exception of Angola. Delegates attending virtually were asked to introduce themselves via Chat.

No apologies were recorded.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Dr Sannasse took the meeting through the agenda on behalf of the chair who was experiencing technical issues, after which it was adopted: proposed by Namibia; seconded by Botswana and South Africa.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (29 JULY 2021)

The minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were adopted without amendment: proposed by Botswana; seconded by Zimbabwe.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Dr Sannasse provided a brief update on the following items in the minutes (excluding those to be dealt with on the current agenda):

- 6.1 Report back on joint meeting of Ministers: several items have been implemented.
- 6.4 SADC Nutrition Programme: the document had been re-circulated to Member States, and feedback received. It will be presented at the next Meeting of Ministers.
- 6.6 Climate Action for Sustainable Development: an update will be provided at a later stage.
- 6.7 FutureLife-Now! and Climate Change: there have been discussions between UNESCO and MIET AFRICA to explore potential for collaboration.

6. NEW MATTERS

6.1 Review of the 2021 CSTL Report

Jennifer Norins: MIET AFRICA (see presentation)

Member States report on CSTL annually. The presentation included the background and purpose of the reports, and the report template structure that comprises three main sections—Mainstreaming CSTL, Policy harmonization and CSTL indicators. The target is for fifteen of the sixteen Member States to achieve a score of at least 75% across the three areas.

For 2021, 13 of 15 Member States submitted, with a noted improvement on the data received, although some challenges remain with the CSTL indicators.

There is still time for Member States to make inputs for the 2021 Report: they can email Ms Norins (jen@miet.co.za) by 28 February.

6.2 Endorsement of the Child and Youth Participation Framework

~ as an addendum to the SADC Policy Framework on CSTL

SADC Secretariat

The framework had been presented at the previous meeting for endorsement by Member States. It was agreed that if there were no opposing remarks (registered in Chat) it would be taken as endorsed. South Africa (physically present in the meeting) and Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia (virtually, through Chat) specifically endorsed the document.

As there were no opposing comments, the CYPF was taken as officially endorsed.

6.3 Updated research study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Adolescents and Youth

Yvonne Tagwireyi: MIET AFRICA (see presentation)

Ms Tagwireyi provided a brief background to the study and its objectives, which include how governments have adapted to the pandemic amidst the continuing waves of infection and consequent lockdowns. Key results include that:

- The cost of keeping schools closed is steep and threatens to hamper a generation of children and youth.
- Remote and hybrid education is here to stay.
- Member States should adopt a learning recovery programme of evidence-based strategies to accelerate learning.

The presentation concluded with a summary of the next steps, which will include validation of the results by Member States.

Q&A and comments

F Reygan: How has CSE been affected?

R: Because it is not examinable, CSE has not been a priority in Member States' recovery plans.

UNESCO: Such research is very important. Attempts should be made to consolidate and synthesize the various studies that have been done, which might also validate the findings through "triangulation".

R (SADC Secretariat): SADC will discuss with MIET AFRICA on providing a consolidated report.

SDC: It may not be advisable to develop yet another regional protocol to deal with the re-opening of schools: the proliferation of protocols has the tendency to weaken their effectiveness. The issue should, if possible, be dealt with within existing guidelines.

Chat comments and questions

UNFPA: We know that many Ministries may not prioritize CSE as they try to catch up on what is considered the "core curriculum" or essential topics but we know that CSE is as important as reading and maths given that puberty, sexuality, GBV, etc, do not pause for pandemics. ... [This is] why it is important to make CSE mandatory and/or examinable.

Malawi: ... taking CSE to parents can play a big role to change the attitudes that impede implementation of CSE in schools.

Zambia: We cannot speak Quality Education without appreciating CSE which is the Health agenda for the Health of the learners. Good Health is Key to Quality

Education. ... There is need to increase awareness about CSE among community members

Botswana: How far are we as SADC to make CSE mandatory & be assessed/examinable?

R [UNFPA]: It is for individual Members States to work on making CSE examinable/mandatory, but we can continue to advocate from our respective sectors and through the ESA Commitment processes.

Concluding remarks (SADC Secretariat)

Given that the COVID study is yet to be finalized, it may not be ready to be submitted to the next Ministers' Meeting, as it would have to be ready before the end of March. Instead, it may be necessary to convene an extraordinary meeting of the CSTL Technical Committee for Member States to validate it.

6.4 Renewed ESA Commitment

~ update on the endorsement process, advocacy, etc.

Lamboly Kumboneki: SADC Secretariat (see presentation)

Dr Kumboneki's presentation summarized the original 2013 ESA Commitment and some of its achievements and shortfalls in attainment, which the new Commitment seeks to address. He outlined the plans for engagement of Member States, categorized by those that had already endorsed, those that missed the opportunity to endorse, and those that had refused to endorse.

The presentation also included a summary of the new targets in terms of the timeframes: those to be achieved by 2025, and those to be achieved by 2030. It concluded with a summary of the resources and tools—including the Young People Today website (www.youngpeopletoday.org/), ESA dashboard and Media Package.

Q&A and comments

UNFPA: Because the Commitment has been broadened to include ministries other than Education and Health (Youth and Gender, for example), it is necessary to do much wider advocacy with the new stakeholders.

6.5 Youth Agency Research

Prof Finn Reygan: Reygan Consult (see presentation)

Prof Reygan addressed the question, *Why youth agency?*, in terms of needing young people's voices and actions to address 21st century challenges. The presentation outlined the objective of the study, but importantly, the methodology, which is *youth-driven*, "participatory action research". One of the important preliminary findings is the intersection between individual and collective agency.

Q&A and comments

SADC: There is a SADC youth forum: Dr Sannasse will link Prof Reygan to the person responsible.

UNESCO: Is the research embedded in specific issues (for example, youth climate change involvement)

R: The normative standards on youth agency state that it should be a cardinal principle across thematic areas. It is important to go beyond mere participation.

MIET AFRICA: This research is embedded directly in the education sector. FutureLife-Now! works with Ministries of Education to give young people the *opportunities* to use their knowledge and skills in real ways, thereby resulting in real behaviour change.

Chat comments and questions

Zimbabwe: Youth agency/participation is a critical component of a child's right. It is a cardinal principle. For any programming, the voices of youth should be heard, or acted upon. This means creating space for opportunities for young people to air their views and ... every] issue affecting a child should consider the voices of youth.

Botswana: It is important that the youth be guided to ... raise matters of concern in forums that influence decision making in their contexts.

6.6 Regional Knowledge Hub

~ teachers as CSTL researchers

Prof Finn Reygan: Reygan Consult (see presentation)

As an introduction, Prof Reygan discussed the impact of research and knowledge, and how the demands on them are being challenged. He explained the nature of the recently-formed Gender, Youth and SRHR Knowledge Hub and its purpose.

Q&A and comments

UNESCO: The challenge is how to develop the capacity of ministries to conduct their own research and to make sure it is used to track implementation.

MIET AFRICA: An important aspect of the South African initiative of establishing a cohort of CSTL researchers is that it is led by the Department of Basic Education. (An exciting development arising from the previous day's SADC Partners' Meeting is that SARUA [Southern African Regional Universities Association] has volunteered to disseminate information about the initiative to its network of regional universities.

6.7 Update on FutureLife-Now! Programme

Megan Cockerill: MIET AFRICA (see presentation)

The presentation included an overview of the programme, as well as the highlights for 2021, an important aspect of which was the use of digital technology (SMS-messaging, radio and TV programmes) to reach the beneficiaries during the COVID-19 lockdowns. It concluded with a summary of the plans for 2022, which are heavily influenced by this being the final year of Phase 1 of the programme.

7. PLENARY DISCUSSION

This had been intended to focus on previously submitted questions, but none had been received.

8. CLOSURE

The chair thanked everyone for their contributions.

The meeting ended at 12h15.

ACTION MATRIX

The following actions are required:

PERSON	ACTION REQUIRED
Member States	Submit additional inputs for the 2021 CSTL report to MIET AFRICA by 28 February 2022
SADC Secretariat	Consider convening an extraordinary meeting of the CSTL Technical Committee for Member States to validate the Update research study on the Impact of COVID-19 on Adolescents and Youth
SADC Secretariat	Link Prof Reygan to the leader of the SADC youth forum