

# Principles and Objectives of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (OPDS)

## APPENDIX B.1: CATEGORISED OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Military/Defence	Crime prevention	Intelligence	Foreign policy	Human rights
Protect against instability	Close co-operation to deal with cross-border crime	Close co-operation	Promote co-operation & common political value systems & institutions to deal with cross-border crime	Develop democratic institutions and practices
Develop a collective security capacity	Promote community-based approach	Early warning	Develop common foreign policy	Encourage observance of universal human rights
Conclude Mutual Defence Pact			Conflict prevention, management and resolution	Encourage & monitor international human rights conventions & treaties
Develop a regional peacekeeping capacity			Mediate in inter- and intra-state disputes	Early warning
			Preventive diplomacy	
			Early warning	
			Encourage & monitor international arms control/disarmament conventions & treaties	
			Co-ordinate participation in peace operations	
			Address extra-regional conflicts which impact on the region	

## **APPENDIX B.2: PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY (OPSD)**

### **PRINCIPLES**

The guiding principles of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security are itemised as follows:

- a. sovereign equality of all member states;
- b. respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each State and for its inalienable right to independent existence;
- c. achievement of solidarity, peace and security in the region;
- d. observance of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- e. promotion of economic development in the SADC region in order to achieve for all member states, equity, balance and mutual benefit;
- f. peaceful settlement of disputes by negotiation, mediation and arbitration;
- g. Military intervention of whatever nature shall be decided upon only after all possible political remedies have been exhausted in accordance with the Charter of the OAU and the United Nations.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE OPDS**

The OPDS was expected to work according to the following objectives:

- a) protecting the people and safeguarding the development of the region, against arising from the breakdown of law and order, inter-state conflict and external aggression;
- b) promote political co-operation among States and the evolution of common political value systems and institutions;
- c) develop a common foreign policy in areas of mutual concern and interest, and to lobby as a region, on issues of common interest at international foray;
- d) cooperate fully in regional security and defense through conflict prevention management and resolution;
- e) mediate in inter-state disputes and conflicts;
- f) use preventive diplomacy to pre-empt conflict in the region, both within and between states, through an early warning system;
- g) Where conflict does occur, to seek to end this quickly as possible

- through diplomatic means. Only where such means fail would the Organ recommend that the Summit should consider punitive measures. These responses would be agreed in a protocol on Peace, Security and Conflict resolution;
- h) promote and enhance the development of democratic institutions and practices within member states, and to encourage the observance of universal human rights as provided for in the Charters and Conventions of the OAU and the United Nations;
  - i) promote peace-keeping and peace-(enforcement?) in order to achieve sustainable peace and security;
  - j) give political support to the organs and institutions of SADC;
  - k) promote the political, economic social, and environmental dimensions of security;
  - l) develop a collective security capacity and conclude a Mutual Defense Pact for responding to external threats, and a regional peacekeeping within national armies that could be called upon in the region, or elsewhere on the continent;
  - m) develop close cooperation between police and security services of the region, with a view to addressing cross border crime, as well as promoting a community-based approach on matters of unity;
  - n) encourage and monitor the ratification of United Nations, Organisation of African Unity, and international conventions and treaties on arms control and disarmament, human rights and peaceful relations between states;
  - o) coordinate the participation of member States in international and regional peacekeeping operations and
  - p) Address extra-regional conflicts which impact on peace and security in Southern Africa.

*Source: SADC Communiqué, 1996*