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# Promoting child nutrition in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region

28-29 September 2015, Windhoek (Namibia)

Regional parliamentary seminar hosted by the Parliament of Namibia and organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

## PROGRAMME

### Monday, 28 September

8.00 a.m. Registration of participants and distribution of documents

9.00 a.m. **INAUGURAL SESSION**

- Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia
- Hon. Nthloi Motsamai, Speaker of the National Assembly of Lesotho, Representative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, IPU
- Ms. Micaela Marques de Sousa, Representative of UNICEF
- Hon. Christine Hoebes, Deputy Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister
- H.E. Dr. Nickey Lyambo, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia

9.30 a.m. Coffee break and group photo

10.00 a.m. **PART I: Significance of nutrition security for development**

This session introduces MPs to the importance of nutrition security as a pro-development intervention/policy/agenda, explains stunting and growth and sensitizes MPs to the cost of inaction. The Session will include a summary of headline numbers on impact on GDP.

- Definition of problem and importance of Scaling Up Nutrition interventions
- Importance of investment in nutrition and first 1000 days
- Link to economic development and poverty reduction

Panellists:

- Mr. Tom Arnold, Coordinator a.i. of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN)
- Mr. Lawrence Haddad, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute

Discussion

12.30 p.m. Lunch

2.00 p.m. **PART II: Regional overview: challenges and existing mechanisms/initiatives to promote nutrition**

This session provides an overview of malnutrition and stunting rates in the region and will also highlight examples from countries in the region that have



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successfully lowered stunting rates or successfully expanded coverage, or pursued some course to advance nutrition.

- Malnutrition in SADC and examples of success in the region
- Policy change in the region

Panellists:

- Ms. Joan Matji, Nutrition Regional Advisor, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office
- Dr. Vitalis Goodwell Chipfakacha, M.Sc Community Medicine Technical Advisor; SADC Secretariat
- Brig. Gen. Dr. Brian Chituwo, Member of Parliament (Zambia)

Discussion

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3.45 p.m. Coffee break

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4.00 p.m. **PART III: Overcoming barriers to nutrition**

This session examines the reasons why malnutrition (both stunting and obesity) persists and identifies what political, legislative, economic, or other factors contribute to malnutrition. Discussion will also encompass Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and how WASH variables contribute to malnutrition.

- Structural barriers: Institutional, Legal, Economic, Political and Administrative factors that contribute to widespread malnutrition and stunting
- Political Will
- Link to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Panellists:

- Mr. Lawrence Haddad, Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute
- Mr. Nahas Angula, Member of Parliament (Namibia), Chairperson of the Namibia Alliance for improved Nutrition
- Ms. Danisile Vilakati, Director of the Swaziland Nutrition Council

Discussion

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6.00 p.m. Wrap-up of the debate and end of day one

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7.00 p.m. Dinner

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## Tuesday, 29 September

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8.30 a.m. Field visit

10.30 a.m. Coffee break

11.00 a.m. **PART IV: Parliament's role in advancing nutrition**

Parliaments can play multiple roles which include adopting relevant legislation; helping to shape or oversee national plans; partnering with people/organizations in civil society to hold governments accountable; ensuring that laws and policies are actually implemented. This session will include 2 parts.

- Pro-nutrition legislation (including regulation of breast milk substitutes, maternity leave legislation, National Plans, the agricultural sector and the food industries)
- Implementation and Oversight
- Budgeting for nutrition
- Good practices from the region



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- Alliances and collaboration (Civil society actors and partners)

Panellists for Part A: Leveraging Parliament's powers

- Mr. David Clark, Nutrition Specialist (Legal), UNICEF
- Mr. David Ponet, Civil Society Partnerships, UNICEF

Panellists for Part B: Promising practices and opportunities from the region

- Mr. Nahas Angula, Member of Parliament (Namibia), Chairperson of the Namibia Alliance for improved Nutrition
- Ms. Silvia Tembo Masebo, Member of Parliament (Zambia)

Discussion

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1 p.m. Lunch

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2.30 p.m. **PART V: Taking a pro-nutrition agenda forward**

- Break-out sessions/Group exercise
- Plenary discussion

Parliamentarians will identify three actions they will take going forward

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5.00 p.m. **CLOSING SESSION** [🔗](#)

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