

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**The Southern African Development
Community (SADC)**

and

**The Association of SADC Chambers of
Commerce and Industry
(ASCCI)**



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The Southern African Development Community (SADC)

And

The Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCCI)

Preamble

Whereas the Southern African Development Community is an intergovernmental regional organization grouping States of Southern Africa which have come together for the purpose of enhancing and fostering regional economic cooperation and integration;

Whereas the objectives of SADC in terms of its Treaty include the improvement of the standard and quality of life of the peoples of the Southern African sub-region, mainly by employing sustainable economic development policies, and encouraging the peoples of the sub-region and their institutions to take initiatives to develop economic and social ties, and to participate fully in the implementation of the programmes and projects of SADC;

Whereas the SADC Treaty provides for Member States to cooperate, *inter alia*, in areas of industry, trade, investment and finance;

Whereas the Treaty also seeks to fully involve the people of the sub-region and non-governmental organizations in the process of regional integration and to enable them to make a meaningful contribution towards the realization of the objectives contained therein;



Whereas the national business organizations in SADC countries have on 21st October 1999, in Mauritius, set up a body called “The Association of the SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry” meant to enhance free enterprise and regional cooperation, and to promote their common interests, particularly through structured forms of dialogue between the officials of SADC and its Institutions on the one hand and the representatives of ASCCI on the other hand;

Whereas the Members of ASCCI have expressed strong wish to work in close collaboration with SADC and its Institutions on issues relating to the economic and social development of the SADC and on the alleviation of poverty in the sub-region; and

Whereas Article 23 of the Treaty of SADC provides that SADC shall cooperate with, and support the initiatives of the peoples of the sub-region and non-governmental organizations, contributing to the objectives of the Treaty in the areas of co-operation in order to foster closer relations among the communities, associations and people of the sub-region.

Now therefore, the Parties agree as follows:

Article 1
Cooperation

1. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and “the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry” (ASCCI) shall cooperate in matters of mutual interest.
2. The parties agree to closely collaborate with each other in order to achieve the attainment of their common objectives.



Article 2

Acknowledgement

1. SADC hereby acknowledges the creation of the national private sector bodies in the SADC countries, and a setting up of a representative group of economic operators in the sub-region, called the ASCCI which has clearly outlined aims and objectives in its constitution.
2. The representatives of the ASCCI duly acknowledge the status and recognize the role and mission of SADC as a sub-regional organization promoting development and economic growth in the sub-region through regional integration.

Article 3

Fostering objectives

SADC agrees to cooperate with the ASCCI representatives in an endeavour to foster the objectives of SADC aimed at promoting regional integration and to achieve development and economic growth in the Member States.

Article 4

Consultations

In order to attain their aims and objectives, the Two Parties agree to engage in regular consultations for the purpose of discussing various forms of collaboration, including submission of proposals and requests on policy matters, exchange of information on all matters of interest to them, seek conducive ways of implementing projects.



**Article 5
Entry into Force**

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall remain valid until terminated.

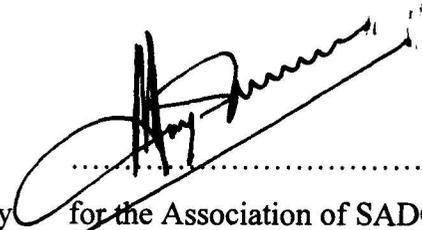
**Article 6
Amendment**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended by mutual agreement.

**Article 7
Termination**

This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Party by giving three (3) months written notice to the other Party. The Termination shall take effect on the date of expiration of the written notice.

THUS DONE at WINDHOEK on this^{7th}.....day of *August*.....2000, in three originals, in the English, French and Portuguese languages, all texts being equally authentic.

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|  The Southern African Development Community |  for the Association of SADC Chambers of Commerce and Industry |
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