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STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM INTERNATIONAL CONDOMS DAY

13 FEBRUARY 2026

On the occasion of International Condoms Day, the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) reaffirms the pivotal importance of condoms as a proven, effective and affordable tool in the prevention of HIV, other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and unintended pregnancies.

Condoms remain one of the most accessible HIV prevention methods available and are most effective when used consistently and correctly, alongside other complementary strategies such as abstinence, faithfulness, HIV testing and counselling, treatment adherence, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and regular health screening. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 98 percent of women whose male partners use male condoms correctly over a span of one year will be protected from unplanned pregnancy and the corresponding efficacy of female condoms stands at 95 percent. Thus, both male and female condoms remain a cardinal tool in the enhancement of sexual and reproductive rights which undergird the right of women to physical integrity and choices concerning their bodies.

SADC Parliamentary Forum underscores the importance of rights-based and evidence-informed responses to SRHR, HIV and AIDS. In this regard, the Forum recalls that it developed the SADC Model Law on HIV and AIDS, which provides a comprehensive framework for strengthening national responses, protecting human rights, reducing stigma and discrimination, and improving access to essential prevention, treatment, care and support services. The Forum calls on Member Parliaments to domesticate and leverage on provisions of this Model Law in line with national contexts.

Parliamentarians across the SADC region are urged to use their legislative, oversight and representative mandates to: end stigma and discrimination related to HIV and condom use; prevent stock-outs of condoms and other essential sexual and reproductive health commodities; promote equitable access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services; and support public education that frames condom use as an act of care, responsibility and protection for loved ones. The Forum has also consistently advocated for Parliaments to vote enabling budgets which allow adequate access to condoms along with sexuality education and sensitisation campaigns to guide citizens on their use.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum reaffirms its commitment to working with national parliaments, governments, civil society and development partners to

strengthen HIV prevention efforts and to support regional and national actions aimed at ending AIDS as a public health threat.

On this International Condoms Day, SADC PF calls on leaders and citizens alike to choose prevention by promoting the sensitisation and dissemination of condom usage while eliminating stigmas and taboos that undermine sexual and reproductive health rights.



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SECRETARY GENERAL

