



CLOSING STATEMENT

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE AND CHAIRPERSON OF SADC,
HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT THE

**VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY SADC SUMMIT
ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE
EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
CONGO**

13 MARCH, 2025

Your Majesty, King Mswati III, King of the Kingdom of Eswatini;

Your Excellency Mr. Andry Rajoelina President of the Republic of Madagascar and Incoming Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency, Mr. Joao Lourenco, President of the Republic of Angola and Outgoing Chairperson of SADC;

Your Excellency, Dr. Samia Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;

Your Excellency, Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi and Incoming Chairperson of the Organ;

Your Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia and outgoing Chairperson of the Organ;

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Honourable Ministers;

Your Excellency Mr. Elias M. Magosi, SADC Executive Secretary,

Excellencies,

We have come to the end of our frank and productive deliberations on the peace and security situation in eastern DRC.

On the basis of well-considered factors and reflections on the initial mandate, this Extraordinary SADC Summit has made the bold decision to withdraw our Mission from the eastern DRC. The withdrawal of SAMIDRC notwithstanding, our august regional body will remain seized with the political and security situation in eastern DRC.

We must speed up the implementation of the decisions made during the Joint SADC-EAC meeting. These include the merger of the Luanda and Nairobi Peace Processes, more so that dialogue is a key cog to usher lasting peace to the people of DRC. Our collective pursuit for peace, is the greatest tribute we can accord our heroes and heroines, both living and fallen, who selflessly answered the call of duty. Their sacrifice can never be in vain.

Allow me as we conclude our meeting, to extend sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Troop Contributing Countries and all Member States, for the backing rendered to SAMIDRC. As our Mission enters a withdrawal Phase, we appeal for continued support, to facilitate the safe withdrawal of all our troops and evacuation of our equipment.

I thank you all, Your Excellencies, for attending this virtual meeting and for the progress we have realised to date, in the face of various challenges.

Our SADC solidarity is unshakable and must be upheld and safeguarded for generations to come.

With these remarks, I declare this Extraordinary SADC Summit officially closed.

I thank you.