

**WOMEN FOR CHANGE – PLAN INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

**ON**

**ENDING CHILD MARRIAGES**

**A JOINT DECLARATION**

**BY SADC TRADITIONAL LEADERS FROM  
MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA AND  
ZIMBABWE**

**13 March 2015**

**Cresta Golf View Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This Declaration is based on resolutions resulting from the SADC Traditional Leaders' Conference aimed at ending child marriages in the SADC Region. The conference was organized by Women for Change and Plan International. It was held at Cresta Golf View Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia from 11 – 13 March 2015. The conference was held for selected traditional leaders, government representatives and civil society organisations from Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## **2.0 PREAMBLE**

We, the Paramount Chiefs, Senior Chiefs and Senior Chieftainesses, Chiefs and Chieftainesses representing our chiefdoms from Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, gathered at Cresta Golf View Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia do hereby this day of **Friday 13 March 2015**, make this declaration which is an embodiment of our commitment to ending child marriages in the four (4) countries here represented.

## **3.0 RESOLUTIONS**

Realizing that child marriages are prevalent in our respective countries and chiefdoms;  
Assenting that child marriages have serious negative consequences on the education, health, dignity and well being of our children especially girls;

Realizing that child marriages perpetuate gender discrimination which robs our girls of development and exposes them to violation of their human rights;

Recognizing the significant role that the traditional leaders play in protecting our girls from harmful practices; We hereby resolve that:

3.1.1 We shall foster community dialogues to ensure better understanding of the international, regional and domestic human rights instruments that guarantee protection of children especially girls.


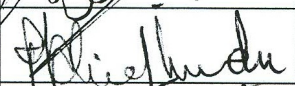

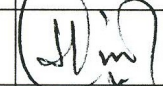
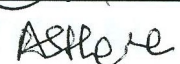
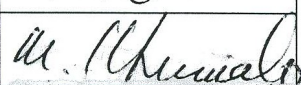

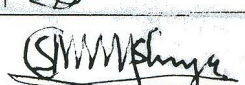

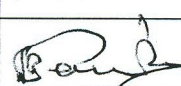

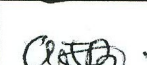
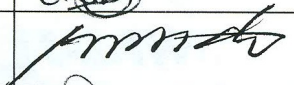



3.1.2 We shall urge the governments in our countries to domesticate the international instruments that safeguard the rights of girls and boys.

3.1.3 We shall conduct community sensitizations to remove the secrecy surrounding child marriages.

- 3.1.4 We shall advocate for the increase in the age of marriage from the current 18 to 21 years in order to safeguard better physical, psychological and social development of the girl child.
- 3.1.5 We shall promote behaviour and attitude change that support social transformation to ensure better education for the girls.
- 3.1.6 We shall promote and advocate for inclusion of the positive cultural values which promote community ownership of children, protect and promote the life and dignity of girls in our respective countries.
- 3.1.7 We shall introduce by-laws in our chiefdoms to abolish negative cultural and traditional practices and customs that promote child marriages.
- 3.1.8 Their Royal Highnesses demand the harmonization of the legal framework to protect the rights of children especially the girl child.
- 3.1.9 We shall advocate for enactment or review of the laws that guarantee the punishment of perpetrators of child marriage and establish safe houses to protect survivors of this vice and other harmful practices.
- 3.1.10 We shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders including civil society organisations, faith based organizations, parent teacher associations and other cooperating partners to ensure that girls and boys in our chiefdoms enjoy their human rights and particularly their right to education.
- 3.1.11 We shall introduce adult literacy classes for women and men in our chiefdoms and promote their appreciation of girl child education.
- 3.1.12 We shall work with the available media to stimulate discussions to highlight dangers, consequences and impact of child marriages and the need to protect and safeguard development of the girl child.
- 3.1.13 We shall foster dialogues with government to ensure that some of the resources received by our respective governments from donors are channeled to the fight against child marriages through non-governmental organisations such as but not limited to Plan International and Women for Change and ensure that girls are supported to the highest level.

- 3.1.14 We shall foster dialogues with governments in our own countries to ensure that our declaration to end child marriages by promoting and protecting the rights of children especially girls.
- 3.1.15 We shall establish committees in our chiefdoms to undertake programmes that address root causes of child marriages and monitor the implementation of the resolutions contained in this declaration.

Discussed, Agreed, and Adopted by all the undersigned Paramount Chiefs, Senior Chiefs and Senior Chieftainesses, Chiefs and Chieftainesses representing our chiefdoms from Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe on this Friday 13 March 2015.

S/N	NAME AND TITLE	COUNTRY	SIGNATURE
1.	Mr. Clement Kapote Mwakasungula (Paramount Chief Kyungu XXIV)	Malawi	
2.	Mr. Lundu Chapter Nkhuku (Paramount Chief Lundu)	Malawi	
3.	Theresa Ndovie (Senior Chieftainess Kachindamoto)	Malawi	
4.	Mr. Noor Iman Frank (T/A Chowe)	Malawi	
5.	Hon. Senator Chief Gambo-Tsholotsho	Zimbabwe	
6.	Hon. Senator Chief Mtshane	Zimbabwe	
7.	Paramount Chief Chitimukulu Kanyanta-Manga II	Zambia	
8.	Senior Chieftainess Nkomeshya Mukamambo II	Zambia	
9.	Senior Chief Magodi	Zambia	
10.	Chief Hanjalika	Zambia	
11.	Chief Chanje	Zambia	
12.	Chieftainess Mwanjabanthu	Zambia	
13.	Chief Liteta	Zambia	
14.	Mr. Chriticles Mwansa-Representative of Mwata Kazembe XIX	Zambia	
15.	Senior Leader - Licaea	Mozambique	
16.	Senior Leader - Magaiza	Mozambique	
17.	Senior Leader - Jogo	Mozambique	