



BI-ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CISNA GOVERNANCE COUNCIL AND SUB-COMMITTEES

PRESS CONFERENCE

Speech of Mr Kenneth Simataa Matomola

Chairperson, Committee of Insurance, Securities and Non-Banking Financial Authorities (CISNA)

31 MARCH 2023



Ms Sonia Lukama, Vice Chairperson of the Committee of Insurance, Securities and Non-Banking Financial Authorities,

Mr Dhanesswurnath Thakoor, Chief Executive, Financial Services Commission, Republic of Mauritius

Mr Hamilton Thomas, Representatives from the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC),

Distinguished Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen

All Protocols observed

Good Morning.

It is with a sense of satisfaction and contentment that I present to you the outcome of what transpired during the Bi-Annual CISNA Meetings of the Governance Council and Sub-Committees over the past few days.



But let me first start by presenting you the Committee of Insurance, Securities and Non-Banking Financial Authorities (CISNA).

Established in June 1998, under the Protocol on Finance and Investment (FIP) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), CISNA is a committee of authorities responsible for the supervision of insurance, securities, and non-banking financial institutions (NBFIs) in SADC Member States.

CISNA forms part of the Directorate of Finance, Investment and Customs of the SADC Secretariat and reports to the SADC Committee of Ministers of Finance and Investment. The main mandate of CISNA is to ensure that the non-bank financial services regulatory frameworks within SADC member states are harmonised and in compliance with international best practices, standards and principles.

CISNA's Vision is "A financially stable region with a harmonised regulatory and supervisory framework for NBFIs".

Our Mission is "To promote financial stability by effectively and efficiently championing a process of collaboration, engagement, and co-ordination between the NBFIs regulators and stakeholders



through policy research, capacity building and market development initiatives”.

The current CISNA Membership consists of 26 Member Authorities from 14 SADC Member States.

CISNA STRUCTURE

In terms of structure, CISNA has a General Council, which is the highest decision making structure for CISNA that comprises all Member Authorities, represented by their respective Heads (or a senior executive as may be delegated).

The execution of the decisions of the General Council is made by the Governance Council, who also oversees the operations of CISNA and that of the Secretariat.

For the purpose of addressing sector specific issues and ensuring achievement of the objects of CISNA, there are three Sub-Committees, namely: the Capital Markets Sub-Committee; the Insurance and Retirement Funds, Medical Schemes and Intermediaries Sub-Committee; and the Microfinance and Financial Cooperatives Sub-Committee.



CISNA MEETINGS

The meetings of the General Council are held annually while the Governance Council and Sub-Committees meet bi-annually. So, these were the first bi-annual meetings of the CISNA Governance Council and Sub-Committees for the year 2023.

The purpose of the bi-annual meetings was to take note of the progress made by the Sub-Committees and CISNA as a whole in terms of the CISNA Strategic Plan 2022-2026 that was approved in April 2022.

I am pleased with the level of participation and attendance in the meetings of the Sub-Committees and Governance Council.

PROGRESS

The last Bi-Annual meetings were held in October 2022 in Mauritius when we also inaugurated the office of the CISNA Permanent Secretariat.



In less than six months, CISNA has progressed well in terms of its strategic plan as reported by the Sub-Committees during the bi-annual meeting.

The Meetings started on 27 March 2023 with a Joint meeting of the three Sub-Committees and the representatives of SADC to consider one of the major assignment of CISNA that is the development of 7 model laws for Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFIs) within the SADC region.

As background, CISNA is consulting on seven model laws since September 2022. The objective of Model Laws is to have an instrument that would be a basis for harmonization of laws in the region that are aligned to international best practices but at the same time, speak to the reality of our region, our context and level of development. These model laws were prepared by the CISNA Sub-Committees and a Short Term Consultant, provided to CISNA by the SADC Secretariat under the SIBE programme.

Member Authorities engaged extensively in consultation on different aspects of the Model Laws and reached consensus on issues of common interest to ensure common approach, style and structure of the model laws that are consistent for all the sub-



sectors, principles-based and flexible enough to be domesticated without much challenges.

Moreover, discussions also revolved around the treatment of common terms and subject matter such as power of regulators, penalties, enforcement, consumer protection to name some. If we speak of harmonisation, it is important that CISNA Members have a common understanding of the subject matter. Divergences in the view of Member Authorities, if not addressed in the beginning, would not only pose challenges in the process of approval of the model laws, but also in the implementation post approval.

There was good dialogue during the meetings and deliberations resulted in member committing to move in the same direction. With consensus reached on most of the issues, CISNA can now move towards doing the necessary validation and approval within CISNA and subsequently submit the Model Laws to the Ministers of Finance and Investment for approval at SADC level.

On 28 and 29 March, the Sub-Committees met with their respective members to deliberate and note progress on the action plan under the Strategic Plan 2022-2026.



Finally, on 30 March 2023, the Governance Council took cognizance of the progress made by the Sub-Committees and CISNA on the various projects that fall under the Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

The Governance Council noted good progress on the Action Plans of the Sub-Committees under the new Strategic Plan 2022-2026 that was approved last year. We are confident that the good starting step that was taken and progress made in less than one year of the approval of the Strategic Plan 2022-26, will be sustained and ensure CISNA complete all the projects identified within the timeframe.

The Governance Council also deliberated on important issues such as capacity building, collaboration between Members Authorities and stakeholders in the region and beyond, leveraging on available opportunities, innovation happening at member authorities in terms of FinTech, Regulatory Sandbox and similar developments, exchange of ideas and experiences. Emphasis was placed on learning from each other and on collaboration to ensure efficiency in execution of CISNA mandate by avoiding duplication of effort, reduce cost and bring synergy in our approach and initiatives.



With this note of satisfaction, allow me to acknowledge the presence of the SADC Secretariat at the CISNA Meetings.

We are grateful for the assistance that we receive from the SADC Secretariat who ensure that they are present at our meetings and provide the necessary updates and guidance to allow CISNA structures to deliver on mandate satisfactorily.

I also wish to thank SADC Secretariat for the support on specific projects, in particular, the development of the seven CISNA model laws. SADC Secretariat provided a Short Term Consultant who assisted in drafting and reviewing the seven identified model laws.

I would like to thank the Government of Mauritius for providing the necessary support, through the Financial Services Commission, to set up the CISNA Secretariat in Mauritius.

I would like to thank the Board, Chief Executive and staff of the Financial Services Commission for hosting the CISNA Secretariat in Mauritius and enabling us to meet and deliberate on CISNA matters.



We are very happy with the good arrangements made to allow CISNA members to attend CISNA meetings in a comfortable and conducive environment.

I am also happy to announce that following a recruitment exercise conducted jointly by CISNA and SADC Secretariat, CISNA appointed the Secretary General on 01 February 2023, Ms Brinda Harjan, who is a Mauritian and a staff seconded by the FSC Mauritius.

We look forward to our continued support and collaboration in the achievement of CISNA and SADC vision and objectives.

With this, let us now hear from our host Mr Thakoor, the Chief Executive of FSC Mauritius.

Distinguished Guests, Members of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for kind your attention.

Friday 31 March 2023, Ebène, Mauritius