



SADC 2008 Summit – SACU Executive Secretary, Ms Tswelopele Moremi, attends the SADC 2008 Summit scheduled for 16 – 17 August 2008 in South Africa.

The SACU Executive Secretary, Ms Tswelopele Moremi, will attend the SADC 2008 Summit scheduled to run from 16 – 17 August 2008 in South Africa.

The main agenda items of this year's SADC Summit are two: (i) the launch of the Free Trade Area, and (ii) the current political situation in the region. The Summit will also deliberate on other matters pertaining to SADC integration agenda.

The Summit will be preceded by several meetings, starting with the Finance Sub-committee meeting on August 09 to be followed by the Standing Committee of Senior Officials meeting from August 10 to 11.

The Finance Committee and the Senior Officials of the Regional Economic Integration Task Force will meet on part of August 11 and 12, while August 13 is set aside for the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration. The Council of Ministers will meet from August 14 to 15.

SADC Free Trade Area

Having completed the critical tasks of the SADC Trade Protocol, the SADC FTA will be launched during the Summit on 17th August 2008 under the theme: ***“SADC Free Trade Area for Growth, Development and Wealth Creation”***.

The launching of the SADC FTA marks a major milestone in the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP). Based on the implementation of the agreed tariff phase down commitments, SADC attained the Free Trade Area as of January 2008.

In accordance with the SADC principle of Variable Geometry, the SADC FTA shall be launched as scheduled, although three of its Member States, namely Angola, DRC and Malawi are still addressing challenges facing them in the implementing the Protocol on Trade.

The SACU Executive Secretary will be accompanied by the Deputy Director Trade Negotiations Mr. Rolf Otto.