



AGREEMENT

AMENDING THE CHARTER ESTABLISHING THE CENTER FOR COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (CCARDESA)

2024

PREAMBLE

We, the Representatives of the Governments of:

The Republic of Angola

The Republic of Botswana

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Kingdom of Eswatini

The Kingdom of Lesotho

The Republic of Madagascar

The Republic of Malawi

The Republic of Mauritius

The Republic of Mozambique

The Republic of Namibia

The Republic of Seychelles

The Republic of South Africa

The United Republic of Tanzania

The Republic of Zambia

The Republic of Zimbabwe

NOTING that the Charter Establishing the Center for Coordination of Agriculture Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) entered into force on 5 December 2010;

ALSO NOTING that in terms of Article 14 of the Charter Establishing CCARDESA, the General Assembly can only hold an ordinary meeting once every two years and may hold extraordinary meetings when necessary;

RECOGNISING that the holding of ordinary meeting of the General Assembly once every two years does not accord reasonable opportunity to the General Assembly to transact business that require consideration at the States Parties Ministers meeting in a timely

manner, as well as to provide guidance to the CCARDESA Board to ensure effective oversight in the governance system of CCARDESA;

CONVINCED of the need for the General Assembly to hold its ordinary meeting annually for the effective discharge of its functions as provided for under Article 13 of the Charter Establishing CCARDESA;

NOTING that in terms of Article 14 of the Charter Establishing CCARDESA, meetings of the General Assembly can only be held at a venue or location in the territory of States Parties;

RECOGNIZING that due to technology advancement, meetings can also be held virtually without requiring physical presence of all participants at one particular venue or location in the territory of States Parties;

NOTING that Article 14 of the Charter does not provide any legal basis for the holding of meetings of the General Assembly virtually or in a hybrid format (physical blended with virtual meeting);

RECOGNIZING the need for the General Assembly to convene its meetings annually by making use of virtual meetings or a blend of virtual and physical meetings to address prohibitive costs of convening physical meetings;

NOTING that the tenure of office for the Members of the Board of Directors is for a period of two years;

AWARE that the tenure of office for the Members of the Board of Directors does not afford adequate period to the Members of the Board of Directors to effectively provide, amongst others, oversight and direction to the CCARDESA Secretariat;

CONVINCED of the need to extend the tenure of office for the Members of the Board of Directors so as to provide adequate period of time for the Board to effectively discharge its mandate;

COGNIZANT of the need to ensure that at all times there are sufficient Members of the Board of CCARDESA to transact the business of CCARDESA;

HAVING agreed pursuant to Article 20 of the Charter Establishing CCARDESA to effect amendments to the Charter;

HEREBY AGREE as follows:

ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS

In this Agreement the terms and expressions defined in Article 1 of the Charter Establishing CCARDESA shall bear the same meaning, unless the context otherwise requires.

ARTICLE 2 AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 14

Article 14 of the Charter Establishing CCARDESA is amended by:

- (a) deleting in paragraph 1 the words “every two years” and replacing them with the word “annually”;

- (b) deleting paragraph 2;

- (c) deleting paragraph 4 and replacing it with the following new paragraph:

“An ordinary meeting shall be convened by the Secretariat by way of written notice which shall be circulated to all members of the General Assembly not later than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting”.

- (d) renumbering the current paragraph 3 as paragraph 2, and the current paragraph 4 as paragraph 3.

ARTICLE 3
AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 15

Article 15 of the Charter is amended by:

- (a) deleting paragraph 2 and replacing it with the following new paragraph:

“2. Members of the Board of Directors shall hold office for a period of three (3) years”;

- (b) inserting immediately after paragraph 2 the following new paragraph 3:

“3. Notwithstanding the provisions in paragraph 2, Members of the Board shall hold office until replaced”; and

- (c) renumbering the current paragraph 3 as paragraph 4.

ARTICLE 4
ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its adoption and signature by three-quarters of State Parties.

**ARTICLE 5
DEPOSITARY**

The original texts of this Agreement shall be deposited with the Executive Secretary of the SADC who shall transmit certified copies to all States Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, WE, the undersigned, being duly authorised representatives of our respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at..... thisday of.....2024 in English, French and Portuguese languages all texts being equally authentic.

REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CONGO

KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE