MIGRATION TRENDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

## *Southern Africa's attitude towards migration*

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1. Overview of migration trends in Africa

2. Historical overview of migration in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

3. Migration in Southern Africa: one step forward, two steps back

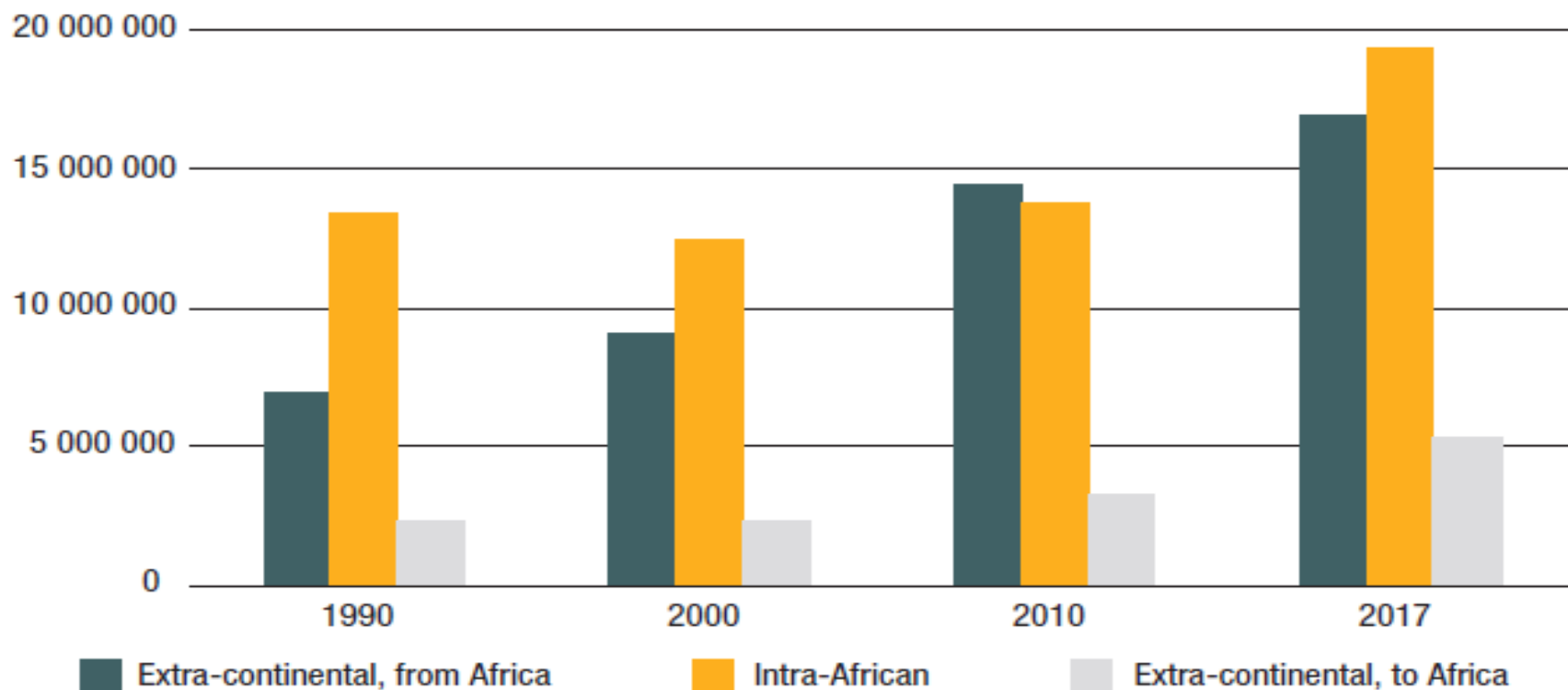4. Where to from here for SADC?

Contrary to popular belief, migration is not simply a South-North phenomenon: **South to South migration has grown at higher rates**
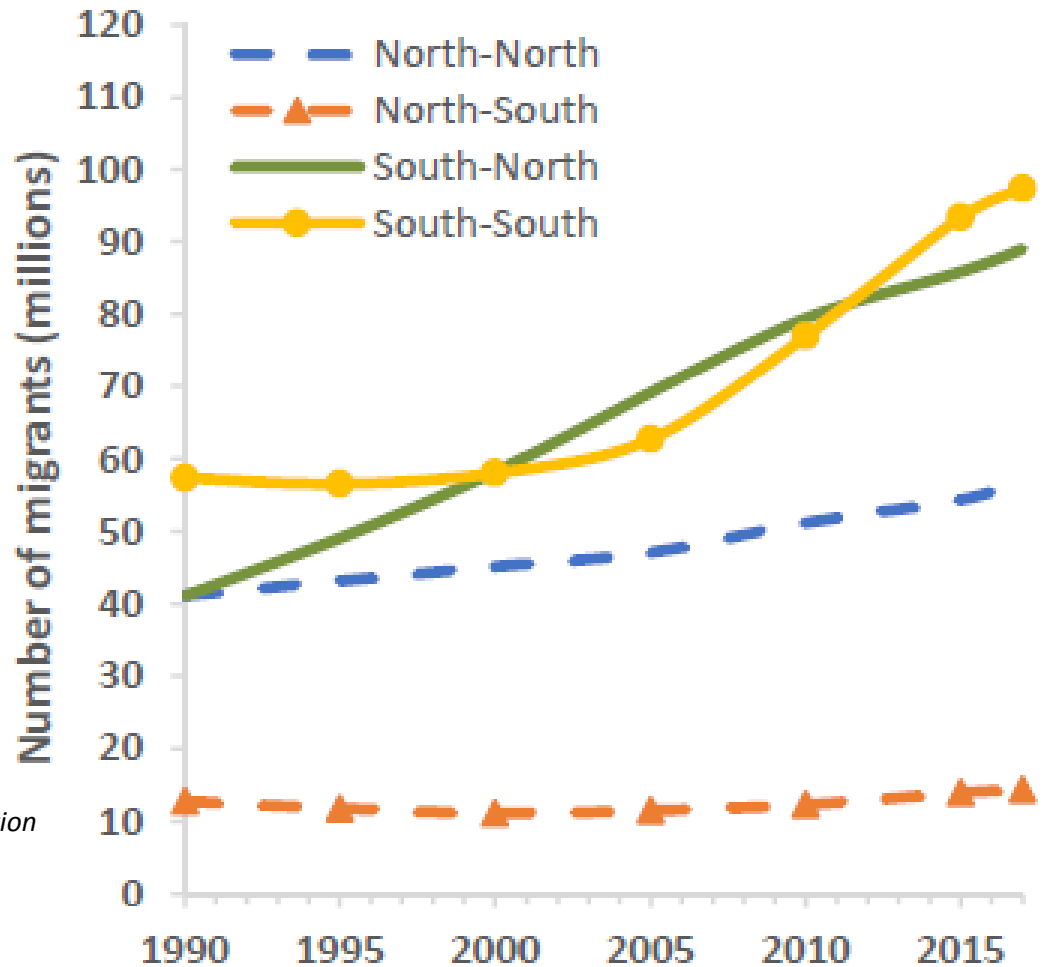
Source: UNDESA Population Division, International Migration Report 2017

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Stock of international migrants from, within and to Africa

Source: UNCTAD calculations, based on United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2017a.

Africa lacks coherence or a systematic regional approach to migration

Disconnect between the AU's vision vs reality in member states: the AU's Migration Policy Framework for Africa and the African Common Position on Migration and Development):

- Progressive
- Forward-looking
- Recognises the nexus between migration and development

Some regions have made progress towards freer movement of persons, such as ECOWAS and EAC (common passport and labour migration)

Intra-African migration continues to feature prominently – but what does this mean in terms of the continent's future growth and development?
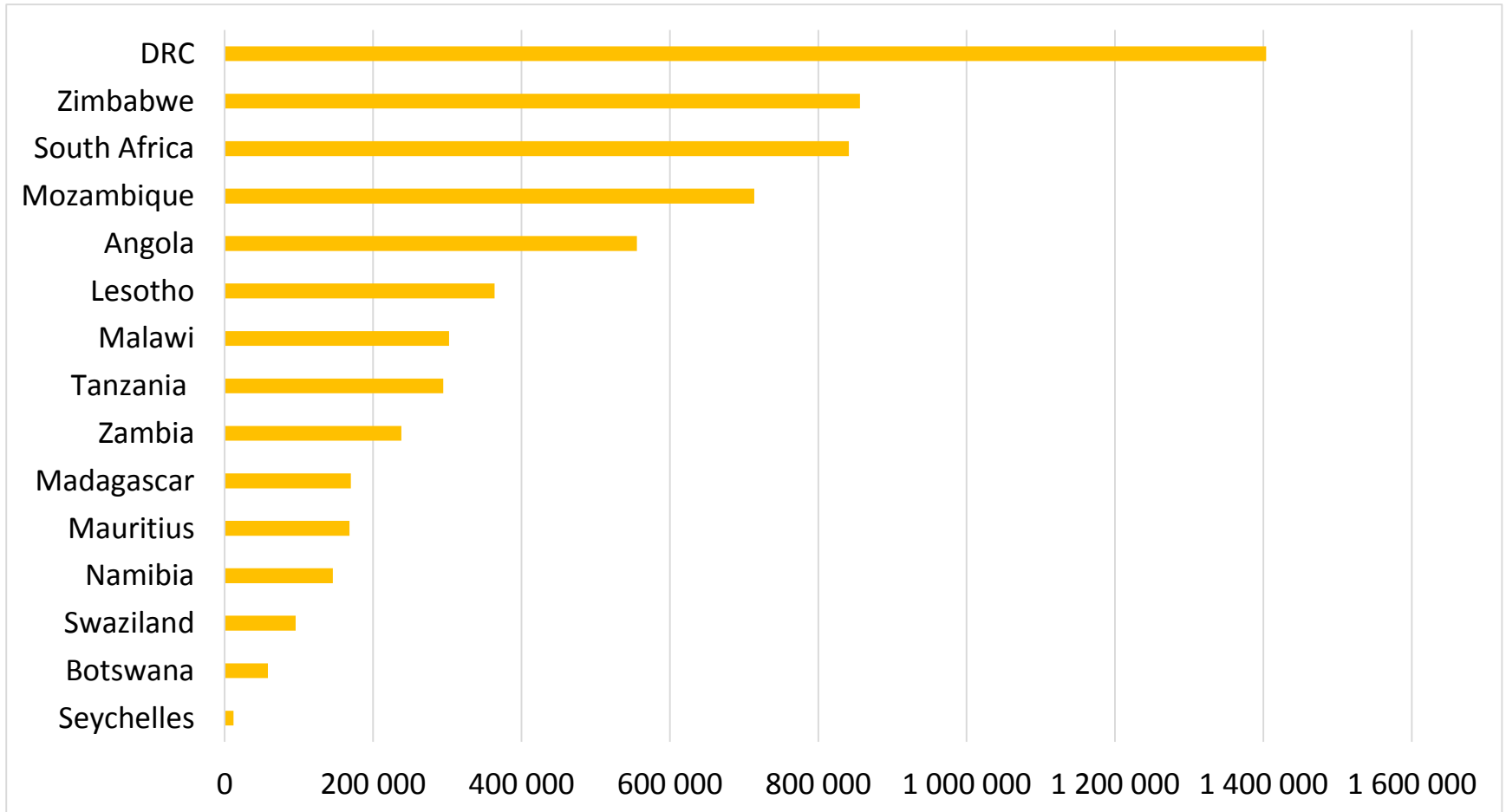
- Vastly different levels of economic development amongst SADC MS, together with different political agendas and leadership exacerbate existing challenges

- **SADC is the only African regional organisation that has failed to fully support, ratify and implement a policy framework for free movement of persons.** Efforts are piecemeal and partisan; progress is slow, and ratification and implementation of protocols is lagging.

- SADC region characterised by semi-skilled and unskilled migration channelled at the bigger economies; heightened tensions, xenophobia

Number of migrants received per SADC country

Receiving countries	Migrant stock
Lesotho	6 572
Seychelles	12 791
Mauritius	28 585
Swaziland	31 579
Madagascar	32 075
Namibia	93 888
Angola	106 845
Zambia	127 915
Botswana	160 644
Malawi	215 158
Mozambique	222 928
United Republic of Tanzania	261 222
Zimbabwe	398 866
DRC	545 694
South Africa	3 142 511

SADC sending migrant countries

African perspectives. Global insights.

Overview of SADC protocols and frameworks relating to migration

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KEY SADC AGREEMENTS APPLICABLE TO LABOUR MIGRATION

Adopted in 2013 Decent Work Programme 2013 - 2019

Adopted in 2014 SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour

Adopted in 2014 Regional Labour Migration Policy

Labour Migration Action Plan 2013 to 2015

Labour Migration Action Plan 2016 to 2019

Draft Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons, 2005

African perspectives. Global insights.
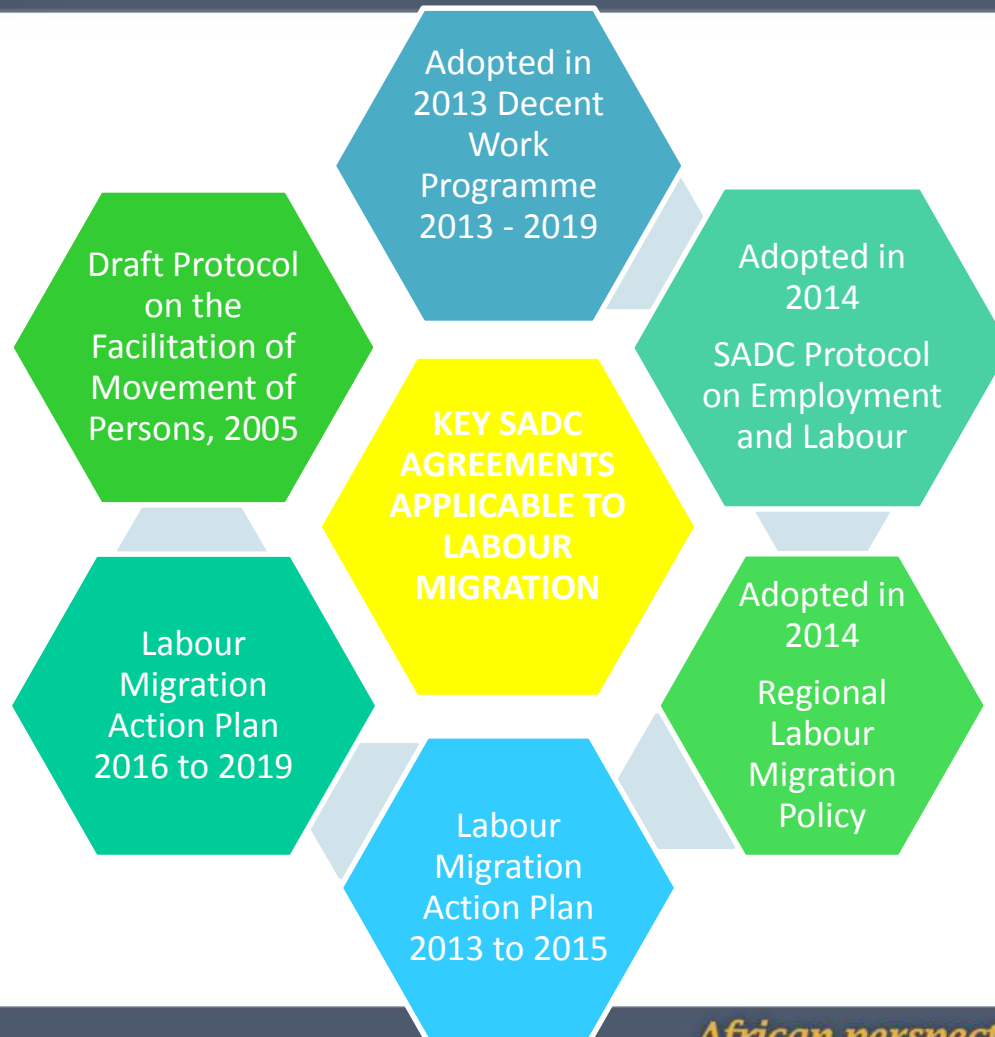
Opinions differ vastly: some suggest that MS are moving slowly towards improved migration; others suggest that efforts are focused on control and exclusion – migration as a threat, not an opportunity

The Draft Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons (Facilitation Protocol) is supposed to be the primary protocol governing movement of persons within SADC BUT it remains in draft format since 1995.

- Ratified by only four SADC MS, and thus lacks the two-third majority required to bring it into effect
- The tension between 'free movement' and 'security threat' discourse on migration is pervasive

SADC Secretariat also faces severe technical, human resources and financial constraints in carrying out its mandate

Migration is handled predominantly through immigration officials = lack of synergies across domestic government departments (labour doesn't even feature), dominant viewpoint of migration through a securitisation prism

The Employment and Labour Sector (ELS) unit working with IOM and ILO: getting MS to collaborate on regional labour migration issues under SADC's Decent Work Programme 2013-2019

The **2014 Labour Migration Policy Framework** (LMPF): rights-based approach towards migration and focuses on integrating migrants into their host societies and providing for their safety

The **2014 Protocol on Employment and Labour: progressive approach towards labour migration management:**
- Article 3(e) requires MS to *"promote the development of employment and labour, as well as social security, policies, measures and practices, which facilitate labour mobility, and enhance industrial harmony and increase sustainable productivity and decent work in MS"*.
- Provisions for remittances transfers, accessing social benefits; improving data collection

Migration Dialogue in Southern Africa **(MIDSA) provides governments with the opportunity to engage in non-binding, transparent discussions on migration**

Very new initiative – difficult to track progress as yet

Migration in Southern Africa: one step forward, two steps back

Convention	SADC MS ratification rates
Migration for Employment Convention 1949, No 97	Madagascar; Malawi; Mauritius; Tanzania; Zambia
Equality of Treatment (Social Security) Convention 1962, No 118	DRC; Madagascar
The Migrant Workers' Convention 1975, No 143	No ratification
Maintenance of Social Security Rights Convention 1982, No 157	No ratification
International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families, 1990	Lesotho; Mozambique; Seychelles

African perspectives. Global insights.

- Migration issues against the backdrop of broader continental developments like the AfCFTA?

- What does this mean for regional developments – can the ELS do something different?

- Unemployment, growing youth, rising urban growth and increasing migration – politics vs pragmatics?

- How to achieve increased economic development, regional integration in the absence of free movement of persons?

THANK YOU