



SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an inter-governmental organization headquartered in Gaborone, Botswana. Its goal is to further regional socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among 16 countries in southern Africa.

The origins of SADC are in the 1960s and 1970s, when the leaders of majority-ruled countries and national liberation movements coordinated their political, diplomatic and military struggles to bring an end to colonial and white-minority rule in southern Africa. The immediate forerunner of the political and security cooperation leg of today's SADC was the informal Frontline States (FLS) grouping. It was formed in 1980.

The Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) was the forerunner of the socio-economic cooperation leg of today's SADC. The adoption by nine majority-ruled southern African countries of the Lusaka declaration on 1 April 1980 paved the way for the formal establishment of SADCC in April 1980.

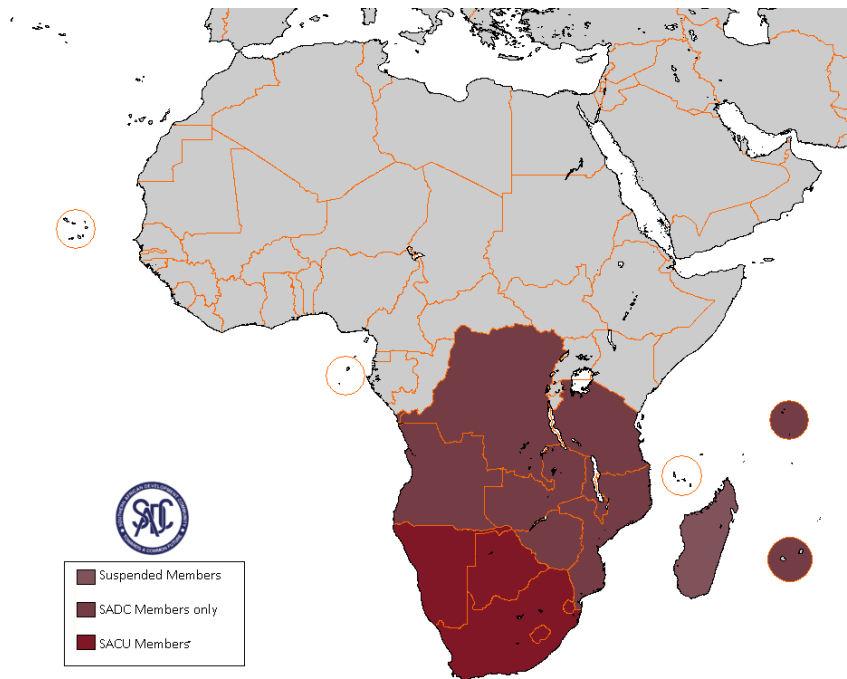
Membership of the FLS and SADCC sometimes differed.

SADCC was transformed into SADC on 17 August 1992, with the adoption by the founding members of SADCC and newly independent Namibia of the Windhoek declaration and treaty establishing SADC. The 1992 SADC provided for both socio-economic cooperation and political and security cooperation. In reality, the FLS was dissolved only in 1994, after South Africa's first democratic elections. Subsequent efforts to place political and security cooperation on a firm institutional footing under SADC's umbrella failed.

On 14 August 2001, the 1992 SADC treaty was amended. The amendment heralded the overhaul of the structures, policies and procedures of SADC, a process which is ongoing. One of the changes is that political and security cooperation is institutionalised in the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (OPDS). One of the principal SADC bodies, it is subject to the oversight of the organisation's supreme body, the Summit, which comprises the heads of state or government.

The organisation holds its own multi-sport event in the form of the SADC Games, which was first held in 2004 in Maputo. Originally planned for an earlier date in Malawi and Lesotho, organisational issues led to abandonment of the plan and the SADC issuing a fine of \$100,000 against Malawi. The first event in 2004 in Maputo resulted in over 1000 youths under-20 from 10 countries taking part in a sports programme including athletics, football, netball, boxing and basketball.

In August 2019 SADC adopted Swahili as its fourth working language, alongside English, French and Portuguese. Kiswahili – a lingua franca in the African Great Lakes region, other parts of East Africa, and to a lesser degree, parts of Southern Africa – is an official language of Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda and of the African Union.



Member states

As of 2020, SADC has 16 [member states](#):

Member states surface area and populations ^[4]			
Country	Area (km ²)	Population	Notes on Membership
 Angola	1,246,700	25,646,166	
 Botswana	582,000	2,393,767	
 Comoros ^{[5][6]}	2,235	886,035	Since 20 August 2017
 Democratic Republic of the Congo	2,344,858	91,969,351	Since 8 September 1997
 Eswatini	17,363	1,170,860	
 Lesotho	30,355	2,157,381	
 Madagascar	587,295	28,321,604	membership reinstated on 30 January 2014 ^[7] after an imposed suspension in 2009
 Malawi	118,484	19,567,808	
 Mauritius	1,969	1,273,660	since 28 August 1995
 Mozambique	801,590	32,077,842	
 Namibia	824,268	2,583,364	since 21 March 1990 (since independence)
 Seychelles	456	98,897	also previously a member of SADC from 8 September 1997 until 1 July 2004 then joined again in 2008.
 South Africa	1,221,037	56,000,000	since 30 August 1994
 Tanzania	947,303	61,333,527	
 Zambia	752,612	18,867,491	
 Zimbabwe	390,757	15,061,323	

The Union of Comoros was admitted into SADC at the 37th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Pretoria, South Africa in 2017, bringing the total number of Member States to 16. Additionally, [Burundi](#) has requested to join.