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Draft strategy for Southern Africa Regional Climate Action Network (SARCAN) on Building Power and Action on Climate in Southern Africa 2021 to 2025

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About SARCAN

- ▶ SARCAN is a network committed to combating harmful climate change, and our overarching vision is ‘a world striving actively towards and achieving the protection of the global climate in a manner which promotes equity and social justice between peoples, sustainable development of all communities, and protection of the global environment’.

THE REALITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

- ▶ Climate change is happening today, so we have to build a more resilient tomorrow.
- ▶ Halting all greenhouse gas emissions would still not prevent the climate impacts that are already occurring
- ▶ The frequency and severity of climate and weather extremes is increasing.

4 pillars in the strategy document

Catalysing transformative change: this strategy will present the alternative solutions to the current systems that are causing the climate and social crisis, and would include the work we do around climate action plans, renewables, financial markets' systemic change, just transition, building resilient communities and cities, addressing social injustice and inequalities, amongst others.

2. Shutting Dirty Down

- ▶ this will include all the work on fossil fuels, false solutions, big agriculture, and other polluting sectors. It also includes working against the rise of autocratic, right wing governments, organizations and media.

3. Building power through movements:

as the important element underpinning the way we do our work and the necessary condition for delivering transformational change.

4. Multilateral Policy and Advocacy:

this includes all the work we do in the UNFCCC as well as other multilateral forums such as the G7 and G20, IMF/World Bank meetings, CBD etc.

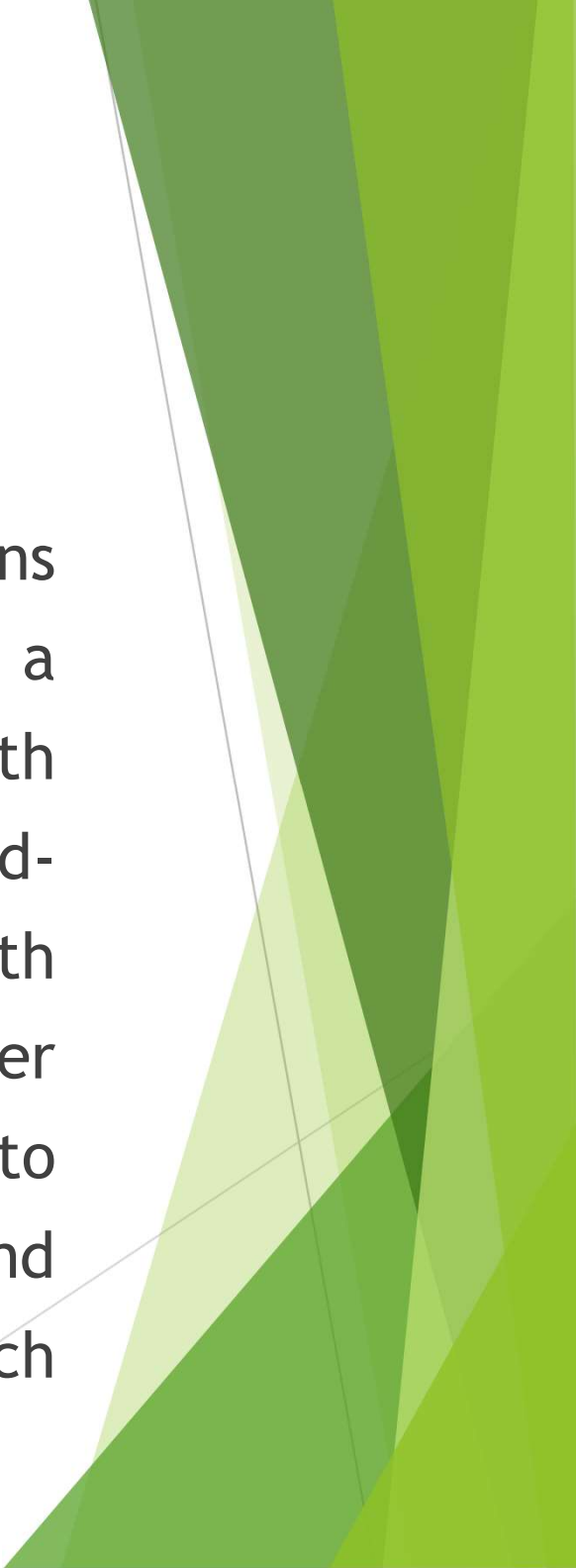
1. Catalysing transformative change:

We aim to achieve transformative change in a way that addresses multiple crises and results in a better and safer world whilst addressing structural inequities and inequalities, in particular, against vulnerable and marginalized people in our societies. As we work towards common goals in the network and aim for achieving joint strategic wins our ultimate theory of change is based on the agency of people on the ground. This also means that the work of SARCAN Nodes and Members at the national level is key for achieving transformative climate plans and ultimately achieving the World We Want. Under this pillar we are proposing two interconnected strategic areas of intervention:

1.1 Just Transition to a credible society

► SARCAN will:

Work towards supporting the development of demands, taking into account the needs and priorities of local communities and civil society stakeholders in their work for a Just Transition, including sustainable livelihoods and decent jobs that ensure gender and social equity. The work on the Just Transition will not only focus on sectors and communities that need to be shifted away from fossil fuels (e.g. production and consumption of coal), but will also need to address those sectors in the economy and society already impacted by climate impacts (e.g. agriculture, tourism etc.). SARCAN will furthermore create and strengthen effective ways for communities and civil society to bring those demands, needs and priorities to the table, when Just Transition Pathways are developed/negotiated in formal and informal processes; while also balancing the needs of workers in polluting sectors facing job losses. In doing this work, SARCAN will also focus on and priorities catalyzing systems change in key sectors such as food, energy, transport and finance with an emphasis on the following:

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- Ambitiously deep and speedy GHG emissions reductions in all sectors and with a view to a 100% renewables pathway combined with strong resource and energy efficiency, by mid-century latest, for all nations and in line with equity and significant funding for poorer nations. Strongly support all actions to credibly and transparently protect and restore biodiversity and carbon-rich ecosystems.

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- Continue to center science and equity, working closely with scientists and academia, such as the IPCC and others, to promote ambitious and credible solutions to the climate crisis, including sustainable deep decarbonization, adaptation and Loss and Damage.

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- Continue advocating for international development finance institutions and governments to allocate the adequate public funding for an accelerated Just Transition.
 - Promoting the shift in private sector investment to new clean and sustainable sectors and practices, through increased climate-related risks and opportunities uptake and demanding regulators to act according to science.

1.2 Building of resilient, safe, equitable, ecologically healthy and just societies, cities and economies

► SARCAN will therefore unite its network to clearly define and realize the fundamental role and space Civil society and communities hold in developing, shaping and creating radically transformative societies that are based on community-driven values for societies that are socially sustainable, equitable, respective of human rights and ecologically healthy. As part of this work we will challenge conventional solutions that reinforce broken societal systems and instead bring about and support the development of bottom-up driven solutions as credible and sustainable alternatives. This work includes achieving the objectives for advancing transformative climate action plans:

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- Building pressure and support for the formulation and implementation of transformative climate action plans/NDCs that are closely interwoven with achieving equity and a Just Transition towards rights-based and sustainable societies, leaving no one behind.
 - Development of an advocacy, communications and campaigns strategy to build pressure for transformational climate action plans/NDCs. Socialize the concept of transformational climate action plans and build capacity and knowledge in the network to strengthen their voices in the national discourse on just, equitable and climate safe societies. Including showcasing local solutions already addressing climate related challenges.

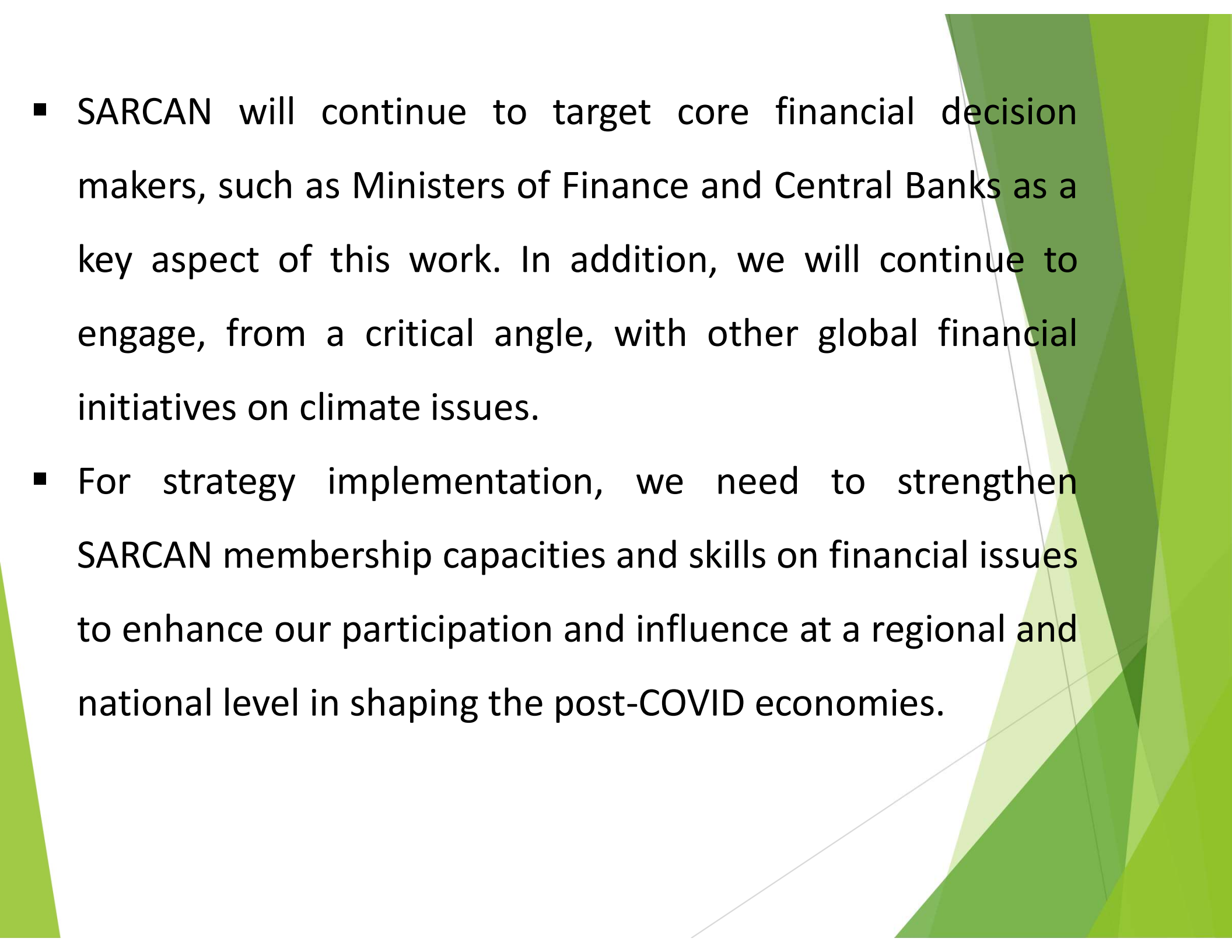
- Further strengthen the network's ability to ensure a seat at the table and a level playing field in national policy making processes for meaningful civil society participation during the planning, development, and implementation and monitoring and evaluation of climate action plans and related policies.
- Support the network in outreach and socialization of the transformative changes we envision through, amongst others, the development of a popular vision for the World We Want, clearly articulating the solutions we are working for and painting a vision for the societies we want to live in that can inspire citizens and encourage them to take action individually or collectively.
- We will seek new avenues for holding governments to account for inaction on the climate crisis, and adverse effects of inappropriate mitigation or adaptation measures and technological fixes.

- We will continue to forefront and amplify the voices and stories of frontline and impacted communities in all the work we do at national and regional levels. As part of this, we will build further on the 2020 CAN #WorldWeWant Campaign on Climate Impacts, elevating climate catastrophes, including rapid and effective responses to climate disasters through powerful narratives that influence the public discourse and bring about change. This includes drawing on

accountable for action on climate impacts, specifically on adaptation and loss and damage and to ensure the protection of their citizens and ecosystems.

- We will continue pushing for the redirecting of the huge amount of financial resources that will be injected to the economic recovery towards climate action and the building of resilience - while addressing the COVID economic and social emergency, particularly towards job creation and the strengthening of social and health systems.

- We will continue working to achieve higher levels of resilience by countries and peoples' to any kind of “external” shocks, like the health, climate, and biodiversity crisis. Our approach for building resilience is based on acting against social injustice and inequalities while promoting sustainable, carbon neutral and climate-resilient investments. This includes putting pressure on rich countries to address the debt burdens of poorer nations.

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- SARCAN will continue to target core financial decision makers, such as Ministers of Finance and Central Banks as a key aspect of this work. In addition, we will continue to engage, from a critical angle, with other global financial initiatives on climate issues.
 - For strategy implementation, we need to strengthen SARCAN membership capacities and skills on financial issues to enhance our participation and influence at a regional and national level in shaping the post-COVID economies.

In addition, we will continue expanding our partnership with like-minded organisations and other civil society organisations (CSOs) within SADC for an ever-increasing and impactful united front to achieve our objectives of transformational change.

2. Shutting Dirty Down:

► SARCAN will work against the continued production and consumption of fossil fuels, the promotion and investment in false solutions and the increasing rise of right-wing politics, including autocratic, anti-democratic governments, white supremacy and attacks on social and environmental activists. Based on this, we are proposing the following key interventions:

2.1 Ending public and private investment and government support for Fossil fuels and false solutions:

► SARCAN will support advocacy and campaigning by its Members, Nodes and other partners and coalitions with regards to ending investments in the production and consumption of fossil fuels. In addition, SARCAN will oppose technologies, interventions and policies by governments and corporations that are being promoted under the guise of low/zero/net negative carbon and are either smokescreens that do not contribute to a 1.5° C pathway and leads to other unacceptable problems to the environment and society, such as for food security, biodiversity and injustice to vulnerable people.

3. Building power through movements:

► The Power we want to build is the capability to influence, drive and/or push SARCAN agenda and mission. Power will be built through 3 pillars that are: To mobilise likeminded players in the climate change agenda and nexus issues, to connect with stakeholders who share same vision with SARCAN and lastly to influence power holders from local level to regional level. It will involve building on the lived-experiences and knowledge of communities on the ground, and about people on the ground building the ways and means to make their voices heard. Building power is therefore not an act of building the power of people, but about organizing among people to help unleash the power and agency that already exists.

Three pillars of building Power

i. **Mobilizations/mobilizers:** Sarcana will mobilise stakeholders from national level to regional level making sure that they also join the network. **Connect-SARCAN** will tuning into voices on the ground and collaborating with them to bring them into regional and international spaces Supporting and/or developing tactical campaigns together with those concerned voices from crisis-impacted communities.

Influence: Fore fronting voices from crisis-impacted communities

Summary

- ▶ SARCAN, will be focusing on building movements with both traditional climate players and nexus players on the ground, mobilization, effective coordination with other movements and constituencies and hold accountable governments, corporations and systems that fuel the climate crisis by building our power in ways that can deliver real consequences for continued inaction.

Summary cont

- ▶ Regional crises require a global response, leadership and collaboration, and the substance of our responses now, will determine our ability to build resilience to future shocks, including addressing the looming challenges of climate change and ecological breakdown.

Conclusion

This proposed strategy sets out the direction of travel for the network over the next five years and with a view to the end of the decade. The next task we need to do is to translate this overarching strategy into an implementation plan, a program of action that will be backed by Theory of Change for monitoring. This will require us to be extremely focused, prioritizing the key issues that we need to win in the next five years and to ensure that we build network-wide support for doing this work once agreed.