

Agenda



Commemorating 10 Years of Regional Financial Inclusion

Venue

The South African Reserve Bank Head office 370 Helen Joseph Street (formerly Church Street), Pretoria Central, 0002.

Forum Webpage

[www.finmark.org.za/SADC FI Forum/](http://www.finmark.org.za/SADC_FI_Forum/)

Dates

Day 1 Tuesday, 5 May 2026

Day 2 Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Forum Library

www.tinyurl.com/SADC-FI-Forum-2026

Day 1 — Tuesday, 5 May 2026

TIME	SESSION	SESSION OVERVIEW	SPEAKERS
08h00 – 09h30	REGISTRATION		
Master of Ceremonies (MC) - Maxine Hlaba, <i>Manager, SADC Banking Association</i>			
09h30 – 09h45	Welcome	Welcome and Opening of the 2026 SADC Financial Inclusion Forum	Speaker: Dr Yolanda De Figueiredo Sabino, <i>SADC Director of Finance, Investment and Customs (FIC)</i>
09h45 – 10h00	Keynote Address	Deepening Financial Inclusion to Accelerate Regional Integration and Industrialisation in SADC The keynote highlights how inclusive financial systems — accessible credit, digital payments, and enabling infrastructure — unlock MSME opportunities, strengthen cross-border trade, and align SADC efforts with the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) and GPFI MSME Financing priorities.	Speaker: Arif Ismail, <i>Head of the National Payment System Department, South African Reserve Bank</i>
10h00 – 11h00	Plenary 1 (incl. Q&A)	Review of Financial Inclusion in SADC — Gaps and Opportunities Drawing on FinScope data, this session examines inclusion trends with a focus on underserved segments including rural populations and women. It showcases regional tools such as the CCBG cross-border remittances portal and identifies priority areas for policy coordination.	Speaker: Damola Owolade, <i>Head of SADC FI, FinMark Trust</i>
11h00 – 11h20	TEA BREAK		
11h20 – 12h30	Panel Discussion 1 (incl. Q&A)	Governance and Coordination of the SADC FI and SME Access Strategy 2023–2028 A critical reflection on governance challenges affecting the SADC Financial Inclusion and SME Access Strategy, exploring barriers to engagement, the effectiveness of thematic task teams, and practical solutions to strengthen institutional alignment.	Moderator: Rado Razafindrakoto, <i>SADC Programme Officer</i> Panellists: Bafokeng Martin Noosi, <i>Director - Other Financial Institutions Supervision, Central Bank of Lesotho</i> Liz Julienne, <i>Director of Financial Inclusion and Market Conduct Division, Central Bank of Seychelles</i> Chiluba Mercy Munoni, <i>Assistant Director - Financial Sector Policies and Management Unit, Ministry of Finance and National Planning Zambia</i>
12h30 – 13h00	Plenary 2	South Africa Payments Ecosystem Modernisation (PEM) — Implications for Non-Banks An overview of SARB's PEM Programme, covering fast payment systems, a national payments utility, and modernised clearing infrastructure. Focus on the evolving role of fintechs and non-bank payment providers in domestic and SADC regional payments.	Speaker: James Thomas, <i>Technical Director for PEM, South African Reserve Bank</i>
13h00 – 14h00	LUNCH		
14h00 – 16h00	Plenary 3 (incl. Q&A)	Member State Updates on Financial Inclusion Progress A regional progress update on the SADC Financial Inclusion Strategy 2023–2028, showcasing Member State outcomes in cross-border remittances, digital payments, MSME finance, consumer protection, and financial literacy.	Speakers: Deeya Hazareesing-Meetarbhan, <i>Manager - Insurance and Retirement Funds, Medical Schemes and Intermediaries, CISNA</i> Sarojini Sumputh Veeramah, <i>Manager - Capital Markets CISNA</i> Daniel Chimfwembe, <i>Acting Manager – Tactical Analysis, Zambia Financial Intelligence Centre</i> Silvio Canga Velinho, <i>Financial Inclusion Policy Division, Central Bank of Angola</i> Thabeth Angela Kunje, <i>Financial Sector Policy Officer, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralisation Malawi</i> Elda Monteiro, <i>Financial Inclusion Office Director, Central Bank of Mozambique</i>
16h00	TEA AND END OF DAY 1		

Day 2 — Wednesday, 6 May 2026

TIME	SESSION	SESSION OVERVIEW	SPEAKERS
Master of Ceremonies (MC) - Brendan Pearce, <i>CEO, FinMark Trust</i>			
09h00 – 09h30	Plenary 4	Updates on the SADC TCIB Scheme An update on the Transactions Cleared on Immediate Basis (TCIB) scheme — SADC's instant cross-border payment solution. Covers participant onboarding, governance developments, ISO 20022 interoperability, and implementation challenges including regulatory alignment and market adoption.	Speakers: Tshepo Rakhibane, <i>Head: Stakeholder Engagements Rest of Africa, PayInc</i>
09h30 – 10h40	Panel Discussion 2	Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Ecosystems — Enhancing Innovation and Financial Inclusion A cross-country exploration of DPI in SADC drawing on experiences from Seychelles, Tanzania, South Africa, and Mauritius. Examines digital identity, e-KYC, and digital payments as enablers of inclusive financial services and regional interoperability.	Moderator: Desire Kachenje, <i>Director, Africa, Co-Develop Fund</i> Panellists: Arnaud Bazerque Bacha , <i>Director Digital Innovation and Payment Systems, Bank of Mauritius</i> Nafissatou Diallo , <i>Director - Software Development section, Department of ICT Seychelles</i>
10h40 – 11h00	TEA BREAK		
11h00 – 12h20	Working Session	Beyond Access — What Does Financial Health Mean for Our Region? An interactive session exploring financial health across SADC. Four facilitated groups (French, Portuguese, English Consumer, English MSME) examine day-to-day management, goal-setting, and shock resilience, anchored to SDG goals. Groups identify measurement gaps; findings feed into regional measurement development.	Facilitator: Bobby Berkowitz, <i>Senior Analytics Specialist, FinMark Trust</i>
12h20 – 13h20	LUNCH		
13h20 – 13h50	Plenary 5	Financial Inclusion Capacity Building Programme — Building Africa's Capacity for Responsible Inclusive Financial Systems A demand-testing session for the FinMark Trust Capacity Building Programme. A short presentation introduces the concept, followed by live SurveyMonkey results from delegates and open floor discussion to shape programme priorities and identify institutional partners.	Facilitator: Bobby Berkowitz, <i>Senior Analytics Specialist, FinMark Trust</i>
13h50 – 14h00	Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks	Thanks and Closing of the 2026 SADC Financial Inclusion Forum	Speaker: Brendan Pearce, <i>CEO, FinMark Trust</i>
14h00	CLOSE OF FORUM		

Feedback Form

