

## **SADC Shared Satellite Forum 2026**

### **Pre-recorded video Opening Remarks**

26 January 2026

**Mario Maniewicz**  
**Director, Radiocommunication Bureau**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear participants,

It is my great honour and privilege to address you all at the beginning of the SADC Shared Satellite Forum 2026, taking place in the beautiful city of Dar es Salaam. Allow me first to congratulate the administration of Tanzania for hosting this important event and all SADC Member States for their commitment to advancing regional satellite cooperation.

This Forum represents a critical milestone in your collective efforts to strengthen regional connectivity, broadcasting resilience and satellite-based services across Southern Africa. Over the next five days, you will deliberate on key issues that shape the future of your telecommunication infrastructures, in particular your initiative related to the development of a shared satellite network.

Mr. Alexander Klyucharev, who is an expert of the Space Plans in the Radiocommunication Bureau, is participating to your meeting in order to assist your deliberations on topics such as: the restoration of degraded BSS and FSS assignments, ensuring robust and equitable access for all Member States or the development of supplemental capacity in both planned and non-planned bands, leveraging ITU frameworks and advanced coordination tools.

These discussions are not merely technical—they are strategic. They will enable your countries to reduce the digital divide, enhance regional resilience, and position SADC as a leader in satellite innovation on the global stage. I am convinced that collaboration among your Member States supported by ITU will be the cornerstone of success. I encourage all participants to engage actively, seek and share information and work towards consensus on the best ways to further develop the SADC shared satellite network.

I hope that this Forum will be remembered as a platform for innovation, solidarity, and actionable outcomes that will transform your region's satellite capabilities for years to come.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and a successful Forum. Together, you will be able to chart a path toward a connected, secure, and prosperous Southern Africa.

Thank you