



**Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation
[SARPCCO]**

**6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
27 – 31 AUGUST 2001
MAURITIUS**

**HARARE RESOLUTION ON THE SARPCCO
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLICE OFFICIALS**

In view of the objectives and principles of SARPCCO as stated in its Constitution ;

Following the recommendations of the Police Chiefs at the Human Rights Workshop, in Kasane, Botswana, 8 – 10 February 2000;

Considering the report by the Chairman of the Legal Sub-Committee on its meeting held in Mangochi, Malawi, 8 - 12 January and Harare, Zimbabwe, 3 – 5 July 2001, it is agreed as follows:

1. That the attached Code of Conduct for Police Officials is adopted as a minimum standard for police forces / services in the region.
2. That each member of SARPCCO takes the necessary measures to implement nationally the Code of Conduct for Police Officials and to adopt it to its own national requirements, if necessary.
3. That the Legal Sub-Committee of SARPCCO shall oversee the effective dissemination, promotion and implementation of the Code of Conduct, including providing advice on national legislation required to fully implement the Code. Annual reports to the SARPCCO Annual General Meeting shall be provided by the Legal Sub-Committee on its monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Conduct.
4. That the Training Sub-Committee of SARPCCO shall produce for the SARPCCO Chairman within three months of the passing of this resolution, a comprehensive training plan and curriculum on the Code of Conduct.
5. That a joint workshop of the Legal and Training Sub-Committees, be convened to assist the Training Sub-Committee to draw up a training plan on how the SARPCCO Code of Conduct could be taught to all Police Officials in the region.
6. That the Training Sub-Committee of SARPCCO shall provide annual reports to the SARPCCO Annual General Meeting on the training it has provided and facilitated on the Code of Conduct.



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CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLICE OFFICIALS

PREAMBLE

We, the Chiefs of Police of the:

Republic of Angola;
Republic of Botswana;
Kingdom of Lesotho;
Republic of Malawi;
Republic of Mauritius;
Republic of Mozambique;
Republic of Namibia;
Republic of South Africa;
Kingdom of Swaziland;
United Republic of Tanzania;
Republic of Zambia; and the
Republic of Zimbabwe,

as members of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organization [SARPCCO];

GUIDED by the following principles :- respect for all human life; reverence for the law; integrity ; service excellence and respect for property rights;

RECOGNIZING that ethical standards, in particular human rights norms, are an important tool in the professionalization of police forces/services everywhere and in SARPCCO member countries;

DESIROUS of integrating human rights in SARPCCO police training and practices, in line with the values and ideals of SARPCCO;

CONSIDERING that it is desirable that police officers have the active moral and physical support of the public they are serving;

AWARE of the need to disseminate best practices and strengthen respect for human rights in SARPCCO member countries;

REAFFIRMING the commitment to a high degree of professionalism in serving the public;

HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

Respect for all human life

ARTICLE 1

RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

In the performance of their duties, police officials shall respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold all human rights for all persons.

ARTICLE 2

NON- DISCRIMINATION

Police officials shall treat all persons fairly and equally and avoid any form of discrimination.

ARTICLE 3

USE OF FORCE

Police officials may only use force when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duties adhering to national legislation and practices.

ARTICLE 4

TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT

No police official, under any circumstances, shall inflict, instigate or tolerate any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to any person.

ARTICLE 5

PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN CUSTODY

Police officials shall ensure the protection of the health of persons in their custody and, in particular, shall take immediate action to secure medical attention whenever required.

ARTICLE 6

VICTIMS OF CRIME

All victims of crime shall be treated with compassion and respect. Police officials shall ensure that proper and prompt aid is provided where necessary.

Reverence for the law

ARTICLE 7

RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Police officials shall respect and uphold the rule of law and the present Code of Conduct.

Integrity

ARTICLE 8

TRUSTWORTHINESS

The public demands that the integrity of police officials be above reproach. Police officials shall, therefore, behave in a trustworthy manner and avoid any conduct that might compromise integrity and thus undercut the public confidence in a police force / service.

ARTICLE 9

CORRUPTION AND ABUSE OF POWER

Police officials shall not commit or attempt to commit any act of corruption or abuse power. They shall rigorously oppose and combat all such acts.

Police officials shall not accept any gifts, presents, subscriptions, favours, gratuities or promises that could be interpreted as seeking to cause the police official to refrain from performing official responsibilities honestly and within the law.

Service excellence

ARTICLE 10

PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES

Police officials shall at all times fulfil the duties imposed upon them by law, in a manner consistent with the high degree of responsibility and integrity required by their profession.

ARTICLE 11

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Police officials shall ensure that they treat all persons in a courteous manner and that their conduct is exemplary and consistent with the demands of the profession and the public they serve.

ARTICLE 12

CONFIDENTIALITY

Matters of a confidential nature in the possession of police officials shall be kept confidential, unless the performance of duty and need of justice strictly require otherwise.

Respect for property rights

ARTICLE 13

PROPERTY RIGHTS

In the performance of their duties police officials shall respect and protect all property rights. This includes the economical use of public resources.