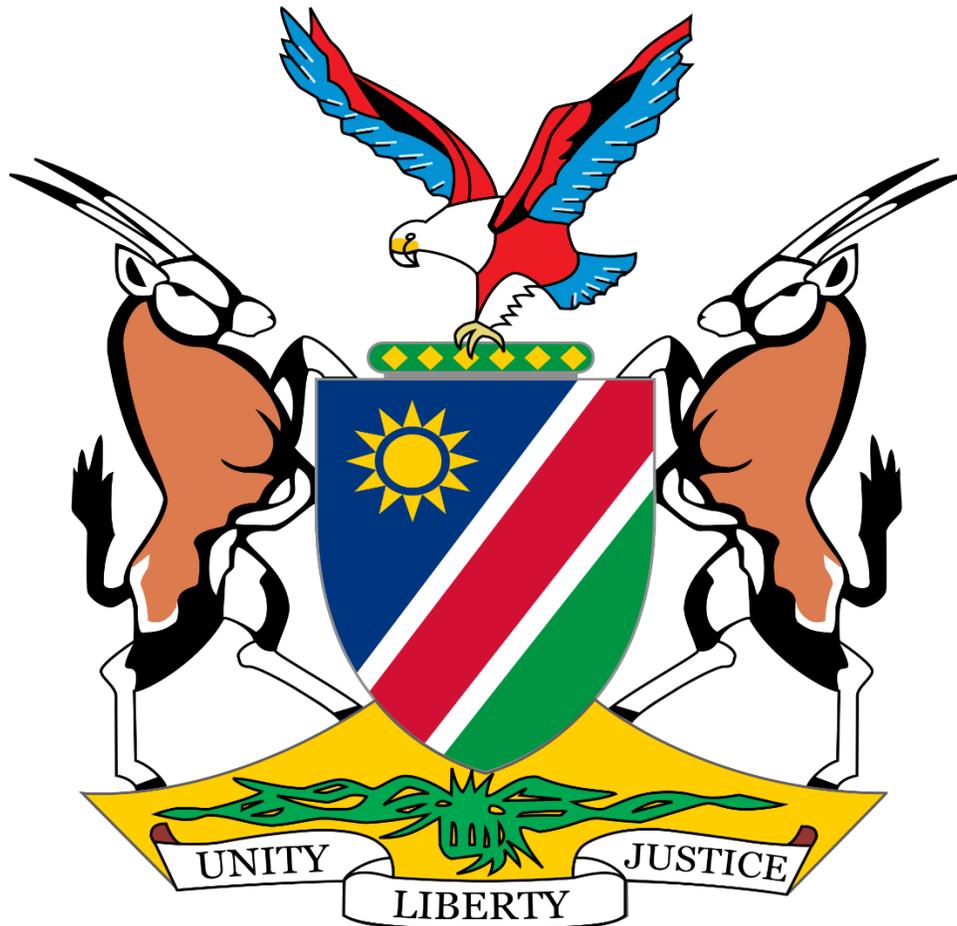


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**REMARKS FOR HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OFFICIAL VISIT BY H.E. SERGEY LAVROV, MINISTER OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

5-7 MARCH 2018

**Hon H.E. SERGEY LAVROV, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Hon Ministers from the Russian Federation and the Republic of Namibia

Deputy Ministers

**Senior Government Officials from the Russian Federation and the Republic of
Namibia**

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentleman

1. At the outset, let me take this opportunity to welcome you and your delegation to Namibia, a country whose annals cannot be complete without referring to the all-round assistance and support rendered by the Government and People of your country to our Liberation Struggle. I am one of the beneficiaries of your country' support when I was accorded an opportunity to study at the Lenin High Kosomol School.
2. The long standing friendship, is the epicentre of our political relations and bilateral cooperation, through the intergovernmental Commission, which bring our two countries and people closer together. It also enable us to identify areas of cooperation and make review on progress made on our political and economic cooperation.
3. In November last year, I Co-Chaired the Seventh Session of our Intergovernmental Commission. Drawing from the warm spirit that has become the norm in our engagements at the Commission, we both agreed on the imperative need to enhance implementation of bilateral Agreements concluded between the two countries. I therefore look forward to exchanging

views on our bilateral cooperation as well as on issues of mutual political and diplomatic concerns.

4. Namibia and Russia are both well-endowed with natural resources. Russia is an important and permanent member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors. Your country is also an important player in Nuclear Technology. We thank you for supporting Namibia's application to the Nuclear Suppliers Group and look forward to your continued support as we position ourselves to optimized out benefits from this natural endowment. Namibia has lifted its moratorium on uranium and as such the implementation of joint projects in exploration, mining and processing of uranium ore in our country can commence.

In this contexts, we welcome the ongoing negotiations between Namibia and Russia to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

5. Namibia continues to address its skills deficit and would thus like to express our gratitude for the scholarships offered by the Russian Federation to many Namibian students who are currently studying at various Universities in the Russian Federation.

6. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change

Namibia signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and deposited the instrument of ratification of the Paris Climate Agreement in September 2016. Faced with the challenges of climate induced natural disasters, Namibia has expressed interest to host the Africa Regional Office (Regional Hub) of the Green Climate Fund.

Namibia's indication to host the Regional Office represents an important step in our quest for fairness, in terms of international development mechanisms. We have already forwarded a letter to the GCF offering to host the regional hub and consultations are ongoing with the GCF Executive Board. We count on your support in this regard.

7. SADC

In August this year, Namibia will assume the Chairmanship of SADC and we look forward to further strengthen cooperation between SADC and the Russian Federation as per the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The 37th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Pretoria, South Africa, approved the signing of the MOU on SADC-Russia Cooperation. The MoU is in the area of military and technical cooperation. The Executive Secretary of SADC, was mandated by Summit to sign the MoU. Namibia welcome the signing of this MoU.

8. Maintenance of International Peace and Security is an important UN Charter obligation. To this, both Namibia and the Russian Federation attach great importance to the reform of the UN Security Council. Hence, for Namibia, the Common African Position as outlined in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, continue to remain the only viable option to redress the historical injustice done to the African Continent and, to ensure that Africa takes its place in the UNSC, including in the Permanent Category with the Right of Veto. We count on the support of the Russian Federation for Africa's position and in general to advocate for a text based negotiations, so as to correct the historic injustice of the non-permanent representation of Africa on the UN Security Council.
9. The issue of self-determination is of great importance to Namibia, hence Namibia's unwavering support to the Palestine people in their pursuit to exercise their inalienable rights to self-determination and establish an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Likewise, we re-affirm Namibia's continued support to the Saharawi people in their just struggle to determine their own future destiny and national independence. The Russian Federation as a member of UNSC has a great role to play in ensuring that relevant UN Resolutions on Saharawi are implemented.

On Syria, Namibia supports the territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Syria. Namibia further supports a negotiated peaceful solution and call for the respect of ceasefire to allow for humanitarian assistance to the civilian population.

10. In view of your forthcoming elections in few weeks' time, I take this opportunity to wish you all the success.