

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY  
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF  
OFFICIAL TALKS WITH H.E. PROFESSOR ROBERT DUSSEY  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, COOPERATION AND  
AFRICAN INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO**

**15 MARCH 2018**

**WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

**Your Excellency Professor Robert Dussey,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Co-operation and African Integration of the  
Republic of Togo,  
Esteemed Members of the Togolese Delegation,  
Honourable Ministers of the Republic of Namibia  
Senior Officials from both delegations  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I extend warm and special welcome to Your Excellency, Professor Dussey and your delegation. I value your presence among us here today, highly and thank you for accepting my invitation to visit Namibia in order to engage in fruitful discussions on issues of mutual interest. Our two countries share a common history of the same German colonialization in the past.
2. I wish to commend the Government and people of Togo for having voted in favour of resolutions for the decolonization of our country. These historic and solidarity gestures demonstrates the fraternal relations between our two countries, which Namibia will forever remain grateful for.

**Dear Colleague,**

3. Today we are here to discharge our sincerely and diligently, conscious of the enormous obligation bestowed upon us by our respective Governments.
4. This requires that at the closure of these talks, we must be able to report to our respective principals that we have made concrete progress towards the further strengthening of bilateral relations to facilitate the achievement of our shared goals of a better life for all our citizens.

**Your Excellency**

5. The State Visit of His Excellency Faure Gnassingbe, President of the Republic of Togo to Namibia in October 2012, was important for our bilateral relations between our two countries. Since then, interaction at political and senior officials' levels has gained momentum, resulting in the drafting of Frameworks of Cooperation across many sectors.
6. Already, an Agreement of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the Republic of Togo on Socio-Economic, Political, Technical, Scientific, Commercial and Cultural Fields is in place.

7. Similarly, several draft Agreements, namely the Draft Bilateral Air Services, the Sector-based Agreement of Cooperation in Livestock and Fishing as well as a Draft Framework Agreement in the field of Tourism, and another one (covering Agriculture, air transport and Tourism) have been finalized. As resolved during our diplomatic engagements in 2016, our two countries will further seek to actively engage in exploring the available opportunities in both countries in the area of trade and investment
8. It is heartwarming to know that, coordination is continuing between sectoral Ministries in both countries geared towards the finalization of the drafts and full implementation of those that have been signed.

### **Your Excellency**

9. I wish to inform that our Government is making great strides towards making Namibia the preferred logistics hub in the southern African Sub-Continent. In this context, I invite the Togolese Government and Private sector role players to take advantage of the opportunities offered by our transport infrastructure and transport corridors, for purposes of trade to and from the SADC Region.
10. I believe that there are multiple mutual benefits to be realized through a high-performance logistics-centred economy, in the form of world-class services, availability of quality goods and services, and the accelerated creation of employment opportunities for our people.
11. It is equally vital for our two countries to work together and explore the vast potential in the tourism sector. Already, tourism is one of the main contributors to GDP for Namibia. Investments in Namibia's tourism, hospitality, leisure, entertainment and real estate projects have grown over the years. We are pleased that the number of visitors to Namibia has grown and that more multi-national aviation companies have started operating scheduled flights to and from our capital Windhoek, and we are currently considering the expansion of our main International Airport to increase its capacity as one of the gateways that connect to the world.
12. Togo as one of the aviation hubs for West Africa and headquarters to A-SKY Airlines which operates across several West and Central African countries, may serve our noble goal well if the Bilateral Air Service Agreement between our two countries is finalized.

**Your Excellency  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

13. The ongoing migrant crisis, in the Mediterranean Sea, remains a grave concern, which requires an urgent intervention from all of us. Africans should, therefore, take the lead in addressing the root causes of migration and ensure that our people's rights and dignity are realized in their own countries. African people, especially the youth should not be forced out of the continent due to harsh living conditions, but must have a choice. We should also support all efforts to ensure that peace and stability prevail in Africa and around the globe.
14. I wish to recall one of the decisions taken at the 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union urging member states to domesticate the implementation of AU Agenda 2063 for the first ten-year period. Our two countries should do all that is needed to comply with this important decision in order to fast track African development, integration and cohesion.
15. It is equally important for Regional Economic Communities such as SADC and ECOWAS to fast track ongoing regional efforts towards the creation of the Continental Free Trade, as resolved by the AU Summit in January 2012.
16. We commend the Republic of Togo for successfully hosting the *AU Summit on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa, in Lomé on 15 October 2016*. Your noble initiative clearly underscored your country's commitment towards Africa's cause of addressing transnational organised crime, particularly, the challenges of piracy, oil theft, as well as illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
17. Through these talks, we demonstrate, once again, that it is possible for African countries to work shoulder-to-shoulder as partners to achieve shared goals.

Once again welcome to Namibia; the Land of the Brave and I am looking forward to fruitful interactions during these talks.

I thank you.