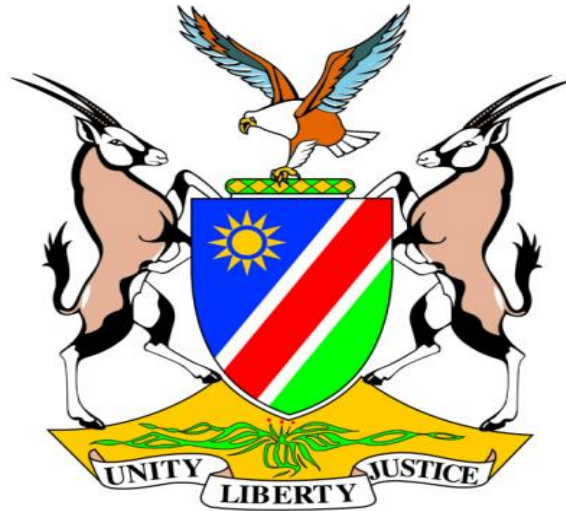


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AT THE ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC
CORPS BRIEFING**

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

13 JULY 2018,

AT 10:00

STATEMENT BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION AT THE ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS BRIEFING, 13 JULY 2018, 10:00

Director of Ceremonies,

Your Excellency, Mr. Manuel Alexandre Duarte Rodrigues, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished invited Guests,

Heads Regional and International Organizations,

Members of the Media Fraternity,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is with great pleasure that we are welcoming all to this traditional gathering. I especially welcome those Heads of Mission and Heads of and International Organizations who were accredited following our last meeting. As His Excellency the President indicated to you who are non-resident when you presented your credentials, we expect you to be regular visitors to Namibia, in order for us to enhance our relations and cooperation.

General cooperation

2. We are already through half of 2018, and much has happened and continues to happen on the bilateral and multilateral sphere. The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation has continued to engage with you individually and collectively. As the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, I have continued to engage with my counterparts of your respective countries, as well as meeting with various Heads of International and Regional Organizations, that you represent.
3. I also had the honor to host numerous visits of some of my counterparts. State and Official visits were undertaken by His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob and he also hosted his counterparts and Heads of International Organization. All of these could not have been possible without your input and cooperation. I thank you for your continued engagement as we to strengthen our relations and cooperation, for mutual benefit. In this context, I am encouraged when I see and read about Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and UN Agencies engaging the Namibians, Government

Institutions and private sector and undertake visits to different parts of the country.

Land Reform

4. The Ministry of Land Reform is mandated to arrange for the convening of the Second National Land Conference as set out in the Harambee Prosperity Plan 2016/17-2019/20. His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia during the opening of the first Cabinet meeting on the 8th February 2018 directed that the Second National Land Conference must convened from the 1-5th October 2018, in Windhoek. The Second National Land Conference shall be hosted under the auspices of the Office of the Prime Minister in conjunction with the Ministry of Land Reform and other relevant Government Institutions.
5. The Conference aims to create a platform where Namibians will be accorded an opportunity to deliberate on the current land reform programme and other emerging land related issues. Therefore, the Government and its people guided by the country's constitution will convene the Land Conference to adopt policies, programmes and measures that could accelerate land reform programme in a democratic and sustainable manner, for the benefit of all Namibians.
6. The National Preparatory Committee has been set up and it's operational. The Second National Land Conference will be preceded by regional consultations in the 14 Administrative Regions of the Country. Regional consultations aim to engage ordinary citizen at regional levels to deliberate over the land issues and recommend possible mitigation measures. The outcomes of regional consultations shall therefore be transmitted to the second National Land Conference for further scrutiny and consideration. These regional consultations will take place from the 18-20th July 2018, and members of the National Preparatory Committee will be divided into teams to carry out those consultations.

SADC

7. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) is an important regional organization through which Member States, including Namibia,

collectively advance their shared interests in achieving the regional economic integration agenda. It is through the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security that Member States address the political and security challenges experienced in some countries in the Region, with the aim of finding lasting peace and stability.

8. In this regard, on June 22nd, 2018, the Ministerial Committee of the Organ (MCO) Meeting convened in Luanda, Angola, to discuss political and security issues in the SADC Region. At that meeting, Namibia introduced an Agenda Item on, “Women, Peace and Security”. This item is based on a UNSC Resolution 1325, which was initiated by Namibia during our membership to the UN Security Council from 1999 to 2000. On October 2000, inspired by the situation in Burundi and Somalia, recognizing the role women can pay in conflict situation, Namibia called for an open meeting on this item in order to highlight the need to include women in peace keeping, peace building activities. Since then, subsequent resolutions were adopted and a global network of Focal Points for Women, Peace and Security was established. In this regard, I wish to comment Spain for having hosted the first meeting of the Focal Point, and Germany for having hosted the second meeting. Today, the Global Focal Points Network, has 77 members dedicated to the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325.

I am raising this issue, not only because it is important, but also to inform that Namibia will be hosting the Third Meeting of the Focal Points on UNSC Resolution 1325.

9. As you may be aware, Namibia will take over the Chairmanship of SADC during the upcoming 38th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which will be held in Windhoek, from 17-18 August 2018. Namibia will follow in the footsteps of the former Chairs of SADC in promoting industrialization in the SADC Region. In this regard, Namibia has proposed the following theme for the 38th SADC Summit: “***Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development***”.
10. I wish to convey that there will soon be a briefing on the Summit preparations for the SADC Countries’ Missions represented in Namibia. The date will be communicated in due course.

AFRICAN UNION

Your Excellencies,

11. Africa is on the march towards a more prosperous future in which all its citizens are empowered to realize their full potential in pursuit of the

“Africa We Want” principle. The adoption by the AU Summit in Kigali in March 2018, of the Agreement Establishing the Continental Free Trade Area was a historic milestone in deepening the Continent’s economic development and integration. Namibia is pleased to have signed this Agreement at the AU Summit in Mauritania recently and, we will accelerate the process of its ratification.

12. We and the rest of Africa take pride for launching the largest Free Trade Area in the world. It will enable Africa to significantly boost intra-Africa trade, improve economies of scale and establish an integrated market. It will also be a catalyst for industrial development, placing Africa on a path to exporting value-added products, and improving Africa’s global competitiveness.
13. The Single African Air Transport Market launched in January this year was also a major step towards transformation. It will enhance connectivity across the continent, leading to sustainable development of the aviation and tourism industries with immense contribution to economic growth, job creation, prosperity and the integration of Africa.
14. In this regard, let me state that we are delighted to see Air Namibia flying over West Africa again. Freedom of movement for people in Africa is equally important and as a Continent, we have to work relentlessly to achieve peace in order to devote our resources to economic and social development.

Your Excellencies,

15. Namibia believes that the FOCAC Summit in September this year is an excellent opportunity to expand cooperation to further deepen Africa-China fraternal relations. In the same vain, we look forward to a successful TICAD 7th Summit in Yokohama next year, 2019.

CHOGM 2018:

16. The Namibian delegation to the CHOGM 2018 was led by H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, during which the Heads of Governments reaffirmed their commitment to the Commonwealth’s

Fundamental Political values, reflected in the Commonwealth Charter of strengthening good governance and the rule of law; protect and promote democratic principles and human rights; promote peace and stability and, to strengthen democratic institutions.

17. I am delighted to share with you that Namibia was elected to serve on the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group for the period 2018 – 2020 at the CHOGM 2018 held in London, United Kingdom from 19-20 April 2018. We look forward to working with other members in meeting the tusks entrusted to us.

The Western Sahara and Palestine:

Your Excellencies,

18. I wish to re-state that colonialism represents one of the most serious violations of national sovereignty of States and, is in breach of international law. Foreign occupation creates an environment in which the occupied people are exposed to a wide range of systemic and gross violations of human rights and freedoms, including dispossession, displacement and denial of their right to self-determination.
19. It is against this background that the President of Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic paid a maiden State Visit to Namibia from 27 – 29 May 2018, to further consolidate bilateral relations and cooperation between our two countries. During the said State Visit, Namibia reaffirmed its unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine and Western Sahara, and calls for the full implementation of all relevant UN Resolutions on Palestine as well as, the UN Settlement Plan for Western Sahara
20. Namibia will therefore, continue to contribute to the work of the Committee on the “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples” which we are happy to serve on.

I thank you for your kind attention.