



# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**STATEMENT BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY  
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
AND COOPERATION END OF YEAR BRIEFING FOR DIPLOMATIC  
CORPS, 09 NOVEMBER 2018**

**Director of Ceremonies,  
Honourable Christine //Hoebes, Deputy Minister of  
International Relations and Cooperation  
Ambassador Tuliameni Kalomoh, Special Advisor to the  
Minister  
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,  
Heads Regional and International Organizations  
Senior Official from MIRCO  
Distinguished invited Guests,  
Members of the Media Fraternity,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is always a great pleasure to engage with you at this platform. Let me therefore welcome you all, particularly those Heads of Mission and International Organizations, who were accredited following our meeting in July. 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. Please do make Namibia an integral part of your diplomatic tour, in order for us to enhance our relations.

**Your Excellencies**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**BILATERAL COOPERATION**

- 2.** This coming together demonstrates the value we place on our bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation. Diplomacy is the art of engagement; and this is why I engage you periodically.
- 3.** Through our bilateral mechanisms such as State visits, Official and Working Visits, Joint Permanent Commissions of Cooperation, Intergovernmental Commissions and Working Groups, and interactions at different levels, we have continued to pursue our bilateral cooperation. Since our last meeting, H.E. the President had successful outbound State, Official and working visits to the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Guinea, Canada and the Republic of Kenya. We also held a successful SADC Summit in August.
- 4.** Similarly, a number of Joint Commissions of Cooperation took place. Some of you organized for your Ministers and business delegations to visit Namibia to engage and explore business opportunities. Our National Airline – Air Namibia has opened a new route to Lagos Nigeria and resume flights to Accra Ghana. There are also other notable and impressive projects in the areas of agriculture, renewable energy, water, women and

youth empowerment that have taken off as a result of your efforts and within the framework of bilateral cooperation.

- 5.** Youth Empowerment remains a key focal area, and we are committed to continue enhancing their capacity. I am happy to note that our cooperation in this area has resulted in an increasing number of academic scholarships and other funded skills development programs facilitated each year by your respective countries and organisations to cater for the advancement of our young people.
- 6.** During recent visits and with our engagements with bilateral partners, it has become evident that there are several best practices that Namibia can emulate, particularly in the use of technology to enhance productivity and skills development across sectors. In this context, I want to particularly thank those Governments that have facilitated Diplomatic training for our staff at MIRCO during this year. I wish to inform that, we are in the process of establishing our Diplomatic Academy. Hence we invite you to partner with us in contributing to the excellence of our Foreign Service.
- 7.** For us this is of utmost importance for, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, provides a rather unique advantage to utilize both the challenges and opportunities that are presented, to enhance our digital connectivity for economic development alongside the rest of the world.

8. These efforts do not go unnoticed, as the outcomes drive the achievements that have been set out in our national development plans, for which the Ministry wishes to duly acknowledge and attribute the due successes of the diplomatic community.
9. As an economy largely dependent on primary commodities, our National Development Plans were negatively affected by the Global Economic downturn. While we are looking forward to a world economic recovery, we also diversify our economy. For this reason, we continue to emphasize our Growth at Home Strategy for industrialization and the policy for promoting micro, small and medium enterprises to provide a strong foundation for diversification. We count on your continued partnership in this regard.

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES,  
LAND CONFERENCE**

10. As you might be aware, Namibia held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Land Conference was held from 1-5 October 2018, Windhoek, to review the progress made towards the implementation of the twenty-four (24) Resolutions of the 1991 Land Conference, and to address the challenges encountered and outlined new measures.

**11.**The Conference was attended by stakeholders drawn from the the Government, Traditional Authorities, Civil Society, Private Sector and international participants.

**12.**The Conference was officially opened by H.E the President Dr. Hage G. Geingob who stayed throughout the discussions in plenary and in breakaway sessions. In his opening remarks, the President acknowledged the issues to be discussed as complex and emotive. Many Namibians were driven off their productive land and banished to barren Bantustans by colonial regimes. In this regard, the President urged participants to listen to one another patiently, respectfully and to extend empathy as fellow citizens articulating their positions. Indeed, the President set the tone of the conference by making comments on critical issues such as the Ancestral land claims; Commercial Agricultural land on the principle of willing buyer-willing seller; Absentee land lords; Plight of farm workers; Resettlement criteria; Commercial land; Urban housing; Land tenure. Women access to land and Veterinary cordon fence.

**13.**The conference extensively deliberated and adopted a number of resolutions, which include:

- Willing Seller-Willing Buyer Principle should be abolished and be replaced with alternative acquisition methods;
- Foreign owned Agricultural land be expropriated with just compensation;

- Review all policies related to land redistribution to ensure the prioritization of Woman, Youth, war veterans, Botswana returnees and Persons with disabilities;
- Development of a policy to protect generational farm workers by providing alternative residence or providing a portion of the land to such workers;
- Development of a policy to compel farm owners to grant unhindered access to identified graves and heritage sites and structures;
- The Abattoirs in communal areas to be renovated and upgraded to Class A Abattoirs (suitable for export);
- Adaptation and mitigating mechanisms to be integrated within the land reform agenda, with specific emphasis to devise appropriate technologies for sustainable farming practices;
- The government of Namibia to prioritize the development of seawater desalination for agricultural production along the Namib Desert; and
- Apply the reviewed bases for valuation that will enhance the compensation for land expropriation.

**14.** As a demonstration of our commitment, to oversee the implementation of these resolution a High level Committee headed by the Right Honourable Prime Minister that led the preparation of the Land Conference has been turned into an implementation Committee.

**Your Excellencies,**

## Country wide clean up

**15.** Gender based violence in Namibia has become not only a security concern but a developmental challenge. As a result, following the clean-up campaign on 25 May 2018, all Offices/Ministries/Agencies were directed to develop programmes for them to contribute to the cleaning of all the dangerous points in our cities. Safety and Security is good for all of us and it important that we all play a role in ensuring safe area. As I always say, the diplomatic family is my constituency. To that end, I am pleading to my constituency for us to bring out ideas on how we can contribute to the campaign of making our cities clean and safe. I know I have raised this matter with some of you in our bilateral meetings. I now want all of us to reflect on it as we move on.

**Your Excellencies,**

## **MULTILATERAL RELATIONS**

### **Southern Africa Development Community**

**16.** As Your Excellencies might be aware, Namibia successfully hosted the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government, in Windhoek, under the theme **“Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development,”** which represents SADC’s commitment to taking the agenda of infrastructural development forward and the need for youth inclusion in all the activities of Member States.

**17.** The Summit elected H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, as the Chair of SADC, President Geingob will continue to promote the SADC Agenda on industrialization and regional integration, which are cornerstones for the realization of sustainable development, poverty eradication, peace, youth empowerment and gender equality. While, I as Minister of International Relations and Cooperation will serve as Chair of the SADC Council of Ministers during Namibia's tenure as Chair of SADC.

**18.** While regional integration is our overall regional development agenda, I wish to emphasize that Namibia is also committed and remains seized of the political and security developments in the region.

**19.** The situation in Lesotho remains a concern. At the recent SADC Summit in Windhoek, Heads of State and Government urged the government of Lesotho to put in place a program with milestones for the implementation of priority activities on the Reform Roadmap and National Dialogue, keeping in mind that the SADC Preventive Mission in Lesotho (SAPMIL)'s mandate will come to an end on 20 November 2018.

**20.** In our efforts to consolidate democratic governance in our region, Namibia sent a contingence of observers to join the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM) in Zimbabwe (July 2018) and Madagascar (07 November 2018) for the Presidential

and Parliamentary elections in those countries. We trust that the people of Madagascar will respect the outcome of this election in order to further consolidate political stability and enhance economic reconstruction in that country. At the same time, we are hopeful that the elections to be held in DRC on the 23 December 2018, will be peaceful, free, fair and transparent.

**Your Excellencies,  
African Union**

**21.** During the 31<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in **July 2018** in Mauritania, Namibia signed the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

**22.** At the same time, Namibia as a member of the AU and the C10, continue to advocate for support for the Common Africa Position on the reform of the UN Security Council as enunciated in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration. In this connection let me point out that The C-10 reaffirmed the Common Africa Position as the only viable position to address the historical injustice suffered by Africa for many decades; and agreed to undertake outreach missions at the level of Heads of State with the 5 Permanent Members of the UN Security Council to canvass support for the Common Africa Position and urged all African countries to unite and speak with one voice to promote the Common Africa Position.

Furthermore, We are of the strong view that tax based at the inter-governmental negotiation forum will be a tangible step in the process of UN Security Council Reform.

**23.** In the spirit of facilitating the Free Movement of African people as per the AU Agenda 2063, Namibia took a principled decision to exempt Africans from entry Visas. To start the process, a decision was taken on 10 July 2018 additional 31 African countries' holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports are exempted from visa requirements for a maximum period of 90 days. This is a step forward aimed at enhancing the free movement of African people and demonstrate the country's commitment to the January 2018 Protocol of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment.

**24.** As you would recall, Namibia joined the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in January 2017. At my invitation, the Lead Panelist for Namibia, led an advance Mission to Namibia from 09 to 12 September 2018. The visit of the APRM Team was aimed at assisting us in setting up the APRM national structures in order to effectively participate in the African Peer Review Mechanism process. Our membership to the APRM is in line with HPP pillars on Effective Governance of International Relations.

**25.** Let me say a few words about AU partnership. To date, the AU has various partnerships which we value highly as they

contribute to the realization of the AU Agenda 2063. For Namibia, our desire is that these partnerships should continue to be aligned to the AU priorities and programmes.

**26.**In this connection let me state Namibia position on the ongoing ACP-EU negotiations on the Post-2020 Cooperation arrangement. As part of the global South, Namibia's position is to maintain the ACP coalition post 2020, while understanding some specific issues on Africa, i.e. Peace and Security.

**Your Excellencies,  
United Nations**

**27.**If Namibia would sum-up in our view, the essence of the General Debate of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNGA, it would be the **centrality of multilateralism in addressing sustainable development and maintaining international peace and security**. We live in times of uncertainty. For multilateralism to hold, all UN members State big and small need to abide by the UN Charter and uphold International law in general. In our cooperation we need to be guided by the spirit and aspiration of the sustainable development goals – the spirit of inclusiveness.

**28.**Here I would like to reiterate Namibia's recognition to the right of the people of Palestine to self-determination and independence as indispensable for lasting and sustainable peace in the Middle East. Furthermore we underscored the

importance of the implementation of all relevant UNSC Resolutions pertaining to the holding of free, fair and credible referendum in Western Sahara. In this context, we welcome the imminent talks between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front in Geneva.

**29.**In our statement to the GA Namibia underscored, the important and invaluable work of the UN in lifting millions of people out of poverty and resolving conflict. We need to silence the guns as advocated by the AU Agenda 2063.

**30.**In this connection, I wish to inform that in our resolve to advocate for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, Namibia has joined the global focal point network and attended both successful meeting held in Alicante, Spain 2017 and Berlin, Germany 2018. This global focal point network focuses on increasing women participation in peace related activities and conflict resolution.

**31.**Thus, I wish to announce that Namibia will host the Focal Point Network meeting in April 2019 and we invite your governments to participate. For countries who are not members we invite you to sign-on to the Global Focal Point Network. I should also mention that this will be the first time that this meeting will be hosted in Africa.

**32.** Equally of importance, I wish to inform that the Namibian Government through the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, in collaboration with the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) is organizing the 2018 Annual Democracy Forum (ADF) Meeting from 27-28 November 2018, under the theme “**Inclusive Democracy for Sustainable Development**”, to inform the initiatives that Namibia has been promoting through the year in supporting the mandate of the International Institute for Democratic and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) within the framework of its 2018-2022 Strategy.

**33.** I wish take this opportunity to once again welcome you all and wish you a blessed, peaceful and fruitful festive season ahead. I further wish to thank you for your outstanding cooperation during the year 2018, and look forward to work with you to strengthen the excellent relations that exist between Namibia and your respective countries and organizations.

I thank you for your attention.