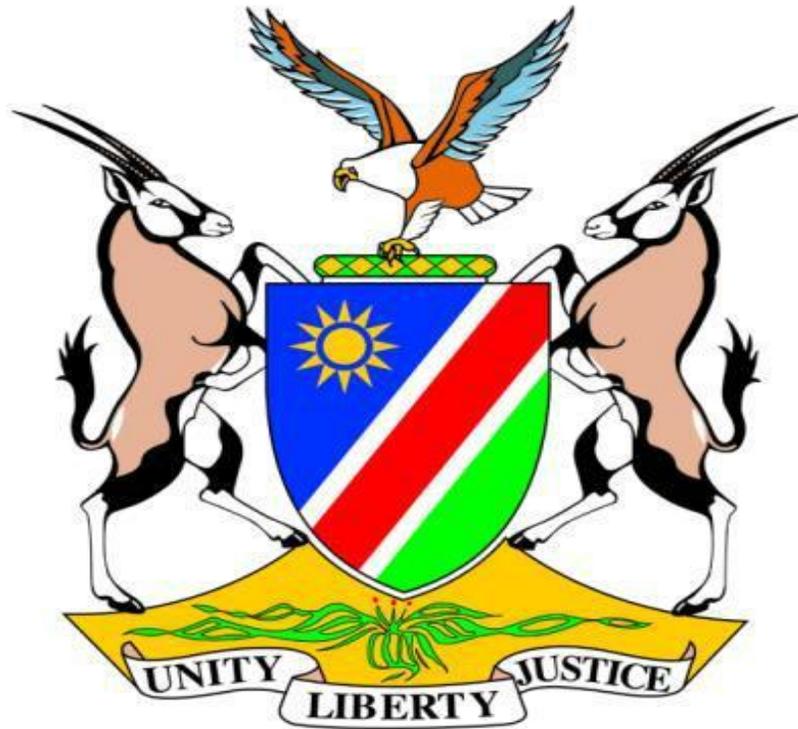


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**Statement by
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. NANGOLO MBUMBA, VICE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

09-10 FEBRUARY 2020

Your Excellency, Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the African Union,

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,

Your Excellency, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

I congratulate Your Excellency on assuming the Chair of the Union. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I also wish to commend President Al-Sisi for his sterling leadership of the Union during the past year. We thank our host, Ethiopia, for the excellent arrangements and hospitality extended to my delegation. I also express my delegation's appreciation to the Chairperson of the AU Commission and Secretariat for their dedicated service.

Chairperson,

With each Assembly we are afforded the opportunity to re-affirm our commitment to our continental developmental agenda which is underpinned by peace, security and stability, as fundamental prerequisites to achieving our collective aspirations of *“An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force globally”*.

The theme of this year's Session: *“Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development”*, lends itself greatly to reaffirming our commitment to overcoming the impediments to achieving the *“Africa We Want”*.

Chairperson,

The Constitutive Act of the AU has placed on all of us the political and moral responsibility to address the challenges of peace, security and stability on the continent. This is a heavy duty which demands of us commitment and unity of purpose. In our pursuit of this noble objective we must never forget that armed

conflicts destroy the lives of women, children and men; and that their hopes and aspirations for peace, progress and development are placed on our shoulders.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation commends the work done by the Peace and Security Council. Our Peace and Security architecture has been integral in the progress witnessed in some parts of the continent. To this end, we must acknowledge and appreciate the efforts employed by the AU through its Regional Economic Communities to address impediments to peace and security. This gives hope that investment in mechanisms and institutions for conflict prevention and peacebuilding do pay off.

In this regard, we recognize the institutional capacity developed by the AU over the past decade to undertake early warning analysis and conflict prevention.

Chairperson,

We are now at a crucial point. Ten years ago, we declared the need to silence the guns by 2020. The year 2020 has arrived and we have not achieved this objective. On the contrary, we now have more unresolved and armed conflicts than we had when we set out on our journey. I submit that we must ask where we have gone wrong and what it is that we have not yet done. This should guide us in overcoming obstacles and move forward with rededication; determined to let nothing stand in the way of silencing the guns. Overcoming this challenge requires of us to strengthen our systems, processes and institutions as a means to provide effective governance.

Lastly, in the spirit of bringing African solutions to African problems and having considered the grave situation in Libya, and taking note of the conclusion of the Berlin Conference on Libya held on 19 January 2020, and the Brazzaville meeting

on 30 January 2020, respectively, my delegation proposes that the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly, mandates the African Representatives on the United Nations Security Council to maintain a common position and play a lead role on all issues of peace and security in Africa.

I thank you.