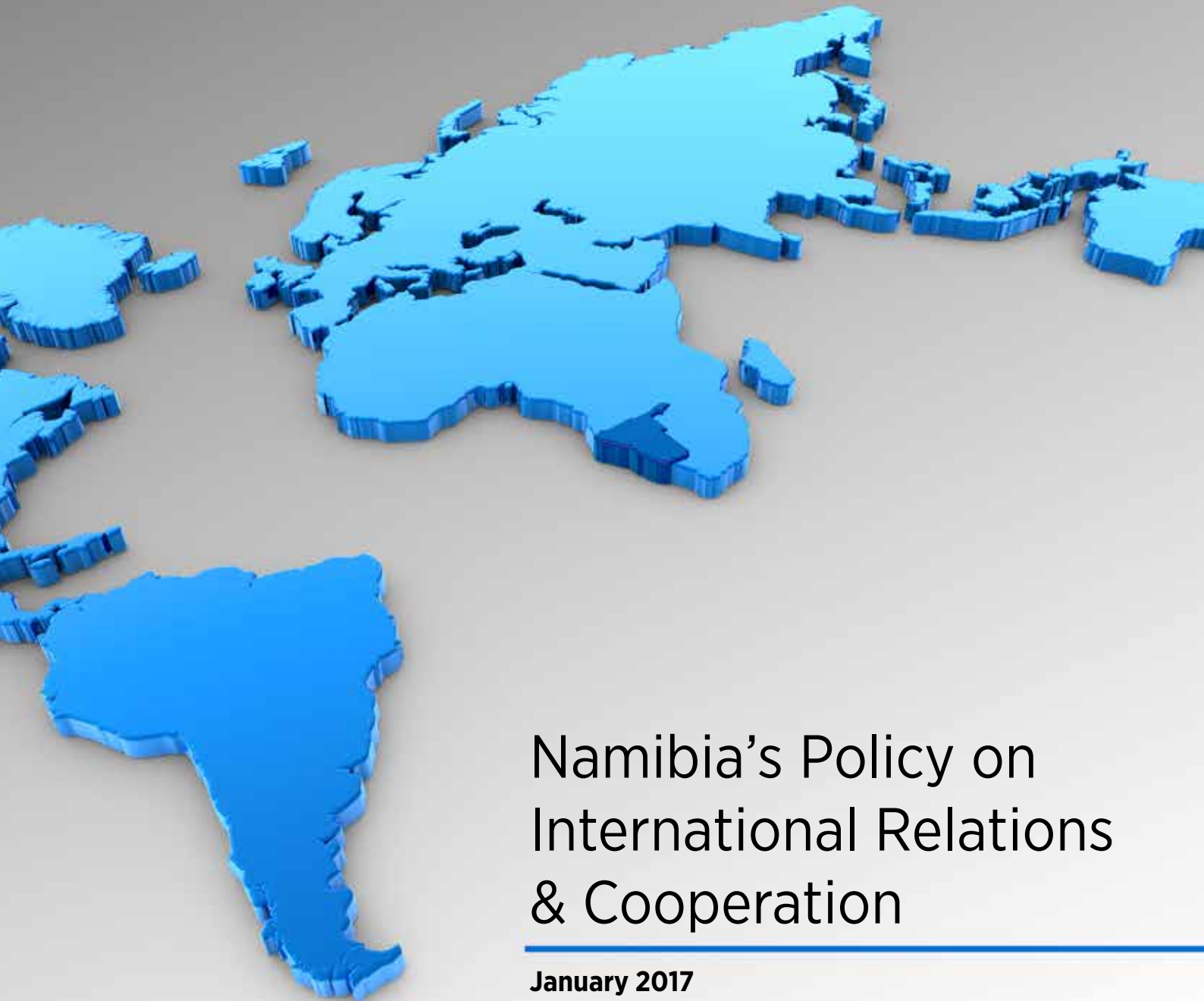




Republic of Namibia
Ministry of International Relations & Cooperation



Namibia's Policy on International Relations & Cooperation

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ACRONYMS

• AAPSO	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation
• ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
• AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
• AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
• ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
• AU	African Union
• BON	Bank of Namibia
• BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
• CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
• CARMMA	Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Infant Mortality
• CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
• CBNRM	Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme
• CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
• CCFAH	Commonwealth Finance Access Hub
• CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
• CFTC	Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
• CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
• CMAG	Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group
• COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
• COPUOS	United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
• CRC	Convention on the Rights of a Child
• CRPD	Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities
• CTBT	Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
• CTFF	Commonwealth Trade Finance Facility
• CUVECOM	Cuvelai River Basin Watercourse Commission
• DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service
• DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought
• DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
• EAC	East African Community
• ECOSOC	The United Nations Economic and Social Council
• ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
• EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
• EPA	Economic Partnership Agreements
• ETSIP	Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme
• EU	European Union
• FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
• FAPLA	People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola
• FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
• FIC	Financial Intelligence Centre
• FLS	Frontline States
• FNLA	National Liberation Front of Angola
• FOCAC	Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
• FTA	Free Trade Agreements
• GDP	Gross Domestic Product
• GSP	Generalised System of Preferences
• GTI	Global Terrorism Index
• HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
• HPP	Harambee Prosperity Plan
• IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
• ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
• ICC	International Criminal Court
• ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
• ICERD	International Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
• ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
• ICESRC	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
• ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development

• ICT	Information and Communications Technology
• IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
• IFIs	International Financial Institutions
• ILO	International Labour Organisation
• IMF	International Monetary Fund
• INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
• IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
• IT	Information Technology
• IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
• MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
• MERCOSUR	Common Market of the South
• MICE	Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events
• MICs	Middle Income Countries
• MIRCO	Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation
• MPESW	Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
• NAFA	Namibia Association of Former Ambassadors
• NAM	Non-Alignment Movement
• NARA	Namibia Association of Retired Ambassadors
• NCRST	National Commission on Research Science and Technology
• NDCs	Non-Communicable Diseases
• NDP	National Development Plan
• NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
• NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
• NPT	Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
• NSG	Nuclear Suppliers Group
• NSPF	National Security Policy Framework
• OAU	Organisation of African Unity
• ODA	Official Development Assistance
• OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
• OKACOM	The Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission
• OMAs	Organisations, Ministries or Agencies
• OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
• ORASECOM	The Orange-Senqu River Commission
• PAWO-SARO	Pan African Women's Organisation - Southern African Regional Office
• PD	Public Diplomacy
• PLAN	People's Liberation Army of Namibia
• PPP	Public-Private Partnership
• R2P	Responsibility to Protect
• RIDMP	Southern Africa Development Community Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan
• RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
• SACU	Southern African Customs Union
• SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
• SADCC	Southern African Development Coordination Conference
• SDG's	Sustainable Development Goals
• SIPO	Strategic Indicative Plan for the Organ on defence, politics and security
• SSCE	Small states Centre of Excellence
• SWANU	South West Africa National Union
• SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organisation
• SWATF	South-West Africa Territorial Force
• TB	Tuberculosis
• TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
• TIKA	Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency
• TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
• UHC	Universal Health Coverage
• UK	United Kingdom
• UN	United Nations
• UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
• UNCHE	United Nations Conference on the Human Environment
• UNCLOS	The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

- UNCRC UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- UNDP United Nations Development Programme
- UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
- UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
- UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
- UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund
- UNIN United Nations Institute of Namibia
- UNITA National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
- UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNPoA United Nations Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons
- UNSC United Nations Security Council
- UNTAG United Nations Transition Assistance Group
- UPR Universal Periodic Review
- US United States
- USA United States of America
- VET Vocational Education and Training
- WEF World Economic Forum
- WHO World Health Organisation
- WMO World Meteorological Organisation
- WTO World Trade Organisation
- YPP Young Professionals Programme
- ZAMCOM Zambezi Watercourse Commission



Foreword by the President of the Republic of Namibia

Globally, diplomacy serves as a tool to execute international agendas in the areas of peace-making, trade, war, economics, culture, environment, and human rights. Thus, diplomacy is the art and practice of conducting negotiations between representatives of States. To remain competitive in the diplomatic sphere, Namibia needs to redefine its policy regarding International Diplomacy, by placing greater emphasis on Economic Diplomacy.

Traditional diplomacy, practiced by many countries in the pre and post-Cold War Era, has been in rapid decline over the past several years. As a result, the term foreign affairs has become a misnomer, and in modern days, international relationships, cooperation and partnerships are the appropriate terms used to describe our efforts to chart common developmental paths. Given current reality, we cannot continue adhering to old principles of diplomacy by perpetuating the practice of Cold War Era diplomatic practice. Therefore, our Policy on International Relations must serve our domestic development aspirations.

Furthermore, the evolution of communication technology has led to the redundancy of the old and rigid means of communication that dominated 20th-century diplomacy. In the past, information would be relevant by the time a diplomatic pouch arrived at its destination. Nowadays communications between diplomats, embassies as well as between missions and their headquarters are more rapid and efficient, hence making the diplomatic pouch outdated.

While diplomacy was confined to the State-to-State interactions in the past, modern day diplomacy involves a kaleidoscope of actors. It is not strange to see Non-governmental Organisations, as well as multinational corporations acting as principal stakeholders in the world of diplomacy. In other words, diplomatic acumen, political and economic sagacity, credibility, as well as the ability to process information at breath-taking speeds are sine qua non for modern-day diplomacy. We have adopted, as the central tenet of our Policy on International Relations, the slogan “we are a friend to all and an enemy to none”, except where our sovereignty is challenged. We espouse the principles of multilateralism and oppose the exclusivist tendencies of unilateralism and trilateralism.

First and foremost, our Policy on International Relations and Cooperation should be embedded in the doctrine of Pan-Africanism. It should take into consideration the emergence of the New Africa or Rising Africa, where those who come into power through coups d’etats are ostracised and where leaders retire in dignity. It is a continent that defines its destiny. In essence, the New Africa is the Africa We Want, as espoused in Agenda 2063 of the African Union

It is therefore pertinent that our diplomacy with our African brothers and sister’s graduates from mere solidarity to economic relationships. As Africans, it is important that we remain intellectually honest about our challenges while countering the negativity of Afro-pessimism. Our diplomacy should, therefore, champion the ideals of the Africa We Want. It is important to adjust to changing times while not compromising on principles, for a principle half compromised, is a principle compromised. There are many aspects of our International Relations Policy that need to adapt to meet the demands of an ever-changing global landscape. However, as a nation that aspires to uphold the spirit of Pan-Africanism, we must always remain faithful to our identity of being an African State. Namibia will continue to honour her obligations to the international community and to uphold values that have made our country a respectable and trusted member of the international community.

Finally, change brings opportunity. And since 21 March 1990, the geopolitical landscape has significantly changed. We remain mindful of the challenges and are cognizant of the fact that overcoming these challenges hinges on our ability to effectively pursue national interests through modern international relations.

I, therefore, endorse our revised Policy on International Relations and Cooperation.



Hage G. Geingob
President

Foreign Policy is defined, among others, as “self-interest strategies chosen by States to safeguard their national interest and achieve goals within its International Relations”. Based on that definition, therefore, formulating foreign policy or the self-interest strategy is not an easy exercise. It therefore follows that maintaining its characteristic nature of national strategy, consultation is a must. In developing the *White Paper on Namibia’s Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Management* in 2004, the then Ministry of Foreign Affairs had sent out questions to different institutions both in the public and private sector, civil societies and individual personalities.

However, in reviewing the 2004 White Paper a review National Conference was held.

As is well known, Foreign Policy is an extension of domestic policy. It is within this context that Foreign Policy is crafted and implemented. It would therefore be apt to state that Namibia’s Foreign Policy is a reflection of who we are and where we want to be as a country and people. It is the means to promote our values and pursue our national interests abroad. It further describes relationships between and among Namibia and other countries as well as international organisations. Through the Foreign Policy, we strive to promote economic prosperity, peace, stability and security in Namibia, and the welfare of the Namibian citizens abroad, as guided by Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution.

Namibia’s Foreign Policy and Diplomacy management, articulated Namibia’s Foreign Policy at Independence. This Policy hitherto was shaped by the lessons learned during the national liberation struggle, and especially the tireless diplomatic efforts waged at the United Nations, through the Southern Africa Development Coordinating Committee, the Organisation of African Unity and the Non-Alignment Movement. Therefore, as mentioned in the 2004 White Paper, our Foreign Policy was thus developed against the backdrop of the Cold War and our struggle for national liberation. At that time, Namibia and the world looked very much different from what it is today. Simply put, the world has changed dramatically since then. Since the publication of the White Paper in 2004, the pillars of international relations have changed and new issues, both domestic and global, have emerged.

When we adopted our Foreign Policy at independence, issues of environment, blue economy, prosperity, human trafficking, terrorism, piracy and cyber crime, just to mention a few, did not feature very prominently on the global agenda. Today, these issues have become global priorities as they transcend national borders and thus require collective international efforts to address them. The World has become increasingly independent, in which the problems of human survival overshadow traditional pursuit of international relations. Thus, in addition to environmental degradation, the world needs to focus collective attention on addressing socio-economic and nutritional decline that affect the human wellbeing. Although Namibia is classified as an upper-middle-income country and has made significant progress in addressing some of the structural problems it inherited at independence, development challenges still remain and are evolving. Namibia’s economic growth has been consistently below the country’s target of 6%, an average economic growth rate which has been set by the successive National Development Plans. This is mainly as a result of the persistent adverse impact of the global economic down turn, drought and other negative impact of climate change, among others.

Despite the negative impact brought by the global economic downturn, drought and the impact of climate change, some noticeable progress has been achieved in realising the goals articulated in the 2004 White Paper, while some situations have developed requiring new strategies. The White Paper clearly states that “*the country has set itself the goal of becoming an upper-middle-income or at best a high-income economy by the year 2030*”. In 2015, and in realigning Namibia’s foreign policy priorities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation. In reviewing the 2004 White Paper, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation conducted face-to-face consultations with the public through the holding of the Foreign Policy Review Conference. Experts both local and international were also invited to present their views. The active participation of the Namibian public at the Review Conference, particularly the Namibian youth and academia, has enriched the outcome of the process. The Foreign Policy Review is an established mechanism to enable a State to evaluate its achievements and challenges, address emerging issues and map out the way forward.

The policy on *Foreign Affairs and International Relations and Cooperation* is to realign current national priorities and programmes which are aimed at bringing about prosperity. Therefore, the declaration of an all-out war against poverty is the path towards prosperity which complements our National Development Plan and Vision 2030. The policy has also identified priority areas which lay the basis for Namibia to become economically competitive, respectable and a trusted member of the international community, as well as to effectively contribute to the realisation of the AU Agenda 2063. Namibia's commitment to the realisation of the African integration agenda and the settlement of conflict remain resolute.

International relations and cooperation are based on mutual benefits and understanding among States. Namibia is a member of various multilateral organisations and signatory to numerous international treaties and conventions. The review of our policy was therefore guided by both domestic needs and international obligations. Namibia continues to reject any form of colonialism as we believe all people have the right to self-determination.

Also, one of the important foreign policy objectives for Namibia has been and continues to be the urgent need for the democratisation of the United Nations, including the Security Council. Africa should be represented in both permanent and non-permanent categories on the Security Council in line with the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

Namibian Heads of Mission play a very vital role in dealing with various activities that cover a broad spectrum of national interest abroad, which can be political, economic and social. They are active participants in policy conception and formulation. The Namibian Government looks to Heads of Mission to deepen the bilateral and multilateral partnerships for the benefit of the citizens, now and for generations to come. Namibia's Diplomatic Missions are in the frontline of projecting and advancing the interests of Namibia internationally and it is through their work that our policy of economic diplomacy can be realised. For Namibia to prosper, our diplomats must engage proactively with the world and take cognisance that Namibia's prosperity is more connected to the global world, and Africa in particular.



Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister



1. THE MANDATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) is responsible for the articulation and implementation of specific foreign policy objectives through identified goals and interests of Namibia. In pursuance of the afore-stated, Namibia strives to be sufficiently informed of the regional, continental and international situations, especially those with direct bearing on its security and economic interests.

National interests are ingrained in Namibia's domestic priorities to create wealth, eradicate poverty and to promote international cooperation, peace and security.

The organisational structure and focus of the Ministry underwent review and changes over the past decades in view of accumulated practical experiences. Working methods and the issues of institution building have been addressed in several ways over the years, including the holding of regular biannual Heads of Mission conferences and regional Heads of Mission consultations.

In 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was renamed to Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation to reflect the changes in the international arena and the country's response to it.

The Mandate

The Namibian Constitution lays down five fundamental principles, under Article 96, which serve as the guiding beacon in the country's conduct of foreign policy.

In terms of the fundamental principles, the State shall endeavour to ensure that in its international relations it:

- (a) adopts and maintains a policy of non-alignment;
- (b) promotes international cooperation, peace and security;
- (c) creates and maintains just and mutually beneficial relations among nations;
- (d) fosters respect for international law and treaty obligations;
- (e) encourages the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

Policy Objectives

The Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma at the first diplomatic training programme in Windhoek on 13 May 1990 set out Namibia's foreign policy objectives when he stated that:

"It is commonly said that every country, irrespective of the particular world to which it belongs, has two primary foreign policy objectives: To preserve its national security interest in and around the national territory and to promote economic and social progress through interaction with other nations. I could hardly quarrel with this viewpoint. Putting it another way, the main idea when pursuing a country's foreign policy amounts to, and this is where diplomacy comes in, neither more nor less than trying to influence the decision-making process in those other nations to the advantage of one's country.

Let me say to you that it will be through you and your efforts that Namibia will gain advantages internationally in the fields of trade and investment, by friendship and cooperation with many, if not, all countries of the world... As diplomacy is to foreign policy what tactics are to strategy. You will, as our diplomats, be expected to digest, understand, interpret, defend and implement these broad principles of the Namibian foreign policy. In upholding and implementing these principles, you should be aware that your words and actions abroad must be inspired and guided by the ideals we cherish as a nation and the policies which our government pursues here at home."

Similar thoughts were echoed by Namibia's first Foreign Minister, Theo-Ben Gurirab, who stated that:

"Foreign policy, at its best, is an externalisation of domestic order and public policies. We cannot hope to be useful as Foreign Service operators if we do not know or care very much about national priorities and aspirations of the people. In other words, how can we hope to promote and defend Namibia's national and security interest if we don't know or care to know its focus and ingredients?"

Therefore, our task, collectively or severally, is to know our people as the first estate in the country whose interest supersedes all other interests, whether of the government, state leaders, political parties, trade unions, media, ecclesiastics or the rest. Without the public, neither our lofty vocations nor seemingly essential service would be required.”¹

The foreign policy objectives were further elaborated by the subsequent Foreign Ministers, as follows:

“It is rightly said that no country is an island. Each country exists within the global system of nation-states and non-state actors. As such, countries try to define their respective positions and their aspirations in that global system, through their foreign policies. Foreign Policy is the means whereby states relate to each other.”²

“Our Foreign Policy is furthermore based on Namibia’s national priorities, and the aspirations of our people occupy centre stage. This does not imply a narrow pursuit of own gain, but rather an enlightened and principle-based articulation of the national interests of the community of nations where our own gain is harmonised with that of other states, in a cooperative and mutually beneficial manner.”³

“It is an incontrovertible fact that the world has changed in how it deals with issues of bilateral and multilateral nature. The geopolitics continue to evolve as countries seek the best alliances to advance and protect their interests. Indeed, economics, politics, security, religion, environment and many other considerations influence this dynamic. This we thought will allow us to take a critical look at our foreign policy to gauge whether it remains effective and relevant to bring about the benefits that we seek for our people and the world at large.”⁴

“As it is well known, Foreign Policy is an extension of every country’s domestic policy. It is within this context that Foreign Policy is crafted and implemented. It would, therefore, correct for me to state that Namibia’s Foreign Policy is a reflection of who we are and where we want to be as a country and people. It is the means to promote our values and pursue our national interests abroad. It further describes the relationships between and among countries and international organisations. Through the Foreign Policy, we strive to promote economic prosperity, peace, stability, security, and the welfare of the Namibian citizens abroad, as guided by Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution.”⁵

The principal objectives of Namibia’s Foreign Policy are, therefore, to:

- Safeguard Namibia’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity. This is the first principle and the central aim of the policy and, indeed, of Namibia’s diplomacy.
- Promote Namibia’s economic growth and development. While this is primarily a domestic task, the external challenge lies in the creation of conditions that facilitate the fulfilment of these goals. The Ministry augments domestic efforts by projecting the country as peaceful, stable, and conducive business environment and by mobilising regional and international cooperation to expand the nation’s economic space.
- Foster international peace, security, and regional harmony through active support for collective initiatives and effective multilateralism. This includes Namibia’s participation in SADC, AU and United Nations peacekeeping missions.
- Build a positive image of Namibia abroad, through concerted actions with other agencies of the government, so as to protect the good reputation of the country and to attract investors, partners and tourists.
- Protect and assist Namibians in the diaspora, including, students and other nationals living or visiting other countries for business, leisure or any other purpose.
- Optimise a modern and flexible diplomatic apparatus that can implement Namibia’s Policy on International Relations and Cooperation.
- Pick one area to carve a niche environment i.e. conservation, agriculture, tourism.

While the policy objectives are constant, they lead to flexible but concrete actions that are pragmatic and suited to situations as they evolve. This mix of strategic firmness and tactical flexibility constitutes the long-term operational base of the nation’s Policy on International Relations and Cooperation.

¹ Address by Theo-Ben Gurirab to the 2nd conference of Namibian Heads of Mission, Windhoek, August 1997. ² Hon. Hidipo Hamutenya, Consideration of the White Paper on Namibia’s Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Management in the National Assembly, 30 March 2004. ³ Hon. Marco Hausiku, Budget Motivation, 21 April 2006. ⁴ Hon. Utoni Nujoma, 5th Heads of Mission Conference, Swakopmund, 3 December 2011 ⁵ Netumbo Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Foreign Policy Review Conference, Windhoek, 25 July 2016

2. PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF DIPLOMACY

The Principles

Diplomacy is the internationally established method by which States articulate their foreign policy objectives and coordinate their efforts to influence the decisions and behaviour of other governments, multilateral organisations, other institutions and peoples through dialogue, negotiations and other such measures, short of war and violence.

It is the centuries-long means by which States seek to secure particular or wider interests, including the reduction of frictions between or among themselves. Diplomacy is the chief instrument through which the goals, strategies and broad tactics of foreign policy are implemented. It aims at developing goodwill towards other States and peoples to ensure their cooperation or, failing that, their neutrality. Diplomacy is thus one of the most enduring and important state crafts of both the ancient and the present systems of international relations.

Typically, but not invariably, diplomacy strives to preserve peace and mutual understanding and is strongly inclined towards negotiation to achieve compromise, mutual advantage and lasting interests, through peaceful resolution of issues between States. By its very nature, diplomacy operates by the principle of polite discourse or quiet persuasion. As a rule, diplomacy is not conducted in a blaze of publicity.

Whereas foreign policy is usually publicly stated, diplomacy is, on the other hand, generally carried out in secret, although its results are often made public. Diplomacy is thus the art of continuing to talk so as to reduce the chance of interstate frictions from developing; and where disputes already exist, diplomacy is called into play to ensure that such conflicts are eliminated.

However, in some unusual cases, diplomacy may involve coercive threats of either economic, military, cultural or other punitive measures. It can take on the form of displays of the capacity to impose unilateral solutions to disputes by the application of military power. Indeed, the history of diplomacy shows that when diplomacy fails, war may ensue. But even during a war, diplomacy is still useful. It can, for instance, facilitate the passage from protest to menace, from dialogue to negotiation, from ultimatum to reprisal, and from war to peace and reconciliation with other States.

Such was the scenario that characterised the diplomatic marathon that culminated in the settlement of Namibia's colonial question. But reaching that final stage called for a high degree of persuasiveness, flexibility, tenacity and creativeness so as to convince the other party that the agreement being proposed or entered into was not detrimental to its interests. Naturally, the effectiveness of a country's diplomacy is dependent on the reliability, predictability and the credibility of its policies.

Moreover, multilateral diplomacy has emerged as a reliable instrument towards the peaceful settlement of disputes and enhancement of sustainable development.

The Practice

The purpose and practice of diplomacy have essentially been the same from the ancient to the Middle Ages (about 1000-1400) and from the Renaissance (1400-1600) to modern times. Empires and early States, over these periods developed an elaborate set of protocols, rules and protections to facilitate the exchanges of envoys or ambassadors and plenipotentiaries as representatives of sovereign States. They are as a norm granted privileges and immunities, which are also extended to their official correspondence, and official and personal properties. They are received by Heads of State, to whom they are accredited, with colourful official ceremonies. In modern days, the ambassadors of big and small States are treated equally. This flows from the notion of the sovereign equality of all States. Furthermore, in the multilateral setting, the same privileges and immunities are extended to heads of regional and international organisations and their diplomatic staff. In operational terms, diplomacy emphasises constant interaction with the receiving government and reporting to the sending State of conditions and developments in the host country. The advances in transportation and communications technology have come to make the referral to the home capital easy and fast. They

have ensured that capitals and headquarters do hear from their ambassadors and accredited heads of organisations more frequently and timeously than was the case in the past.

With more innovations in the theory and practice of international relations, there emerged the concept of national interest, which asserts that the State has interests of its own that transcend the sentimental concerns or wishes of rulers. As much as the kings and monarchical rulers continued for centuries to somewhat personify State sovereignty, by the 17th century the focus of diplomacy began to shift from representing the sovereign to serving the national interest. This trend accelerated in the 19th century and led to the establishment (first in France in 1626) of Ministries of Foreign Affairs to centralise, coordinate and direct foreign policy as well as to manage or control ambassadors and other Foreign Service officials. National interest thus became the pursuit of international relations.

By the 20th century, diplomacy had expanded beyond bilateral bargaining between sovereigns. It now covers summits, meetings and other international conferences and activities of supranational and subnational entities. Its coverage also includes activities such as economic diplomacy, unofficial diplomacy by non-governmental actors, and the work of international civil servants. This expansion of diplomatic activity has come to mean that the results of diplomatic negotiations are made more and more public than was the case before the 20th century.

The expansion of the tasks of diplomacy beyond the social and ceremonial representation of the sending State and the protection of nationals of the sending State within the borders of the host State signalled the increased responsibility of ambassadors and their staff. And, with the notion of discretionary mandate inherent in the concept of plenipotentiary and extraordinary representatives, ambassadors are increasingly authorised to negotiate and sign agreements with the host State.

Nonetheless, the gathering of information and reporting, by lawful means, on conditions and developments within the host country for the sending government, as well as the promotion of friendly relations between the two States have remained the salience of diplomatic tasks. Information may be gathered from an array of sources, and the use of experience and expert knowledge is essential in identifying, analysing and interpreting emerging critical issues and their implications for peace and progress, as well as for the security and other benefits for the sending State.

When necessary, representation also entails the lodging of official or informal protests with the host country, or explaining and defending the national policy. To this must be added furthering of economic, commercial, cultural and scientific relations. Diplomatic missions also perform public service functions for their nationals, including electoral registration or conducting of elections for overseas voters, (when this is authorised), issuing of visas, facilitating study permits for students, visiting nationals that are incarcerated abroad, assisting with legal matters as appropriate, as well as rendering consular services such as assisting with the repatriation of remains of nationals.

As a result of the expansion of the sphere and tasks of diplomacy in the last century, representatives of non-state actors, such as the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), had semi-diplomatic missions in various capitals and headquarters of international organisations to conduct diplomatic lobbying for support. Diplomacy has evolved. Today, specialists in the field of diplomacy refer to conference diplomacy, personal diplomacy, parliamentary diplomacy, public diplomacy and economic diplomacy. These are different angles of the same activity defined as diplomacy. Conference diplomacy refers to the trend towards numerous conferences on social, economic and technical issues. The most common of this branch of diplomacy are summits, where Heads of State and Government meet in a multilateral setting to negotiate and to conclude agreements that create international law, often in new areas of human endeavour. These summits are usually preceded by ministerial meetings. Although conference diplomacy has only become more common during the last two decades of the 20th century, it was in use as far back as the 19th century. For instance, the Congress of Paris of 1856, which ended the Crimean War, was one of the early examples of conference diplomacy. Similar examples were the Berlin Conferences of 1878 and 1884-85, which were held to prevent wars over the so-called "Eastern" and "African" questions – euphemisms, respectively, for intervention on behalf of Christian interests in the decaying Ottoman Empire and the carving up of Africa into European colonies.

The end of the 20th century witnessed an increase in conference diplomacy through the holding of major United Nations conferences such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) (1994), United Nations World Summit for Social Development, United Nations Conference on Women (1995), United Nations Conference on Financing for Development (1998), and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (1996).

Personal diplomacy has to do mainly with the role of Heads of State and Government as chief diplomats and formulators of their countries' foreign policy and diplomacy. Heads of State and Government are primarily assisted by Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation in the conduct of diplomacy. Not only do such personalities frequently represent their countries at international fora, they also shape foreign policy at bilateral level by visiting other countries and meeting visitors who come to their countries to discuss pertinent issues. They also receive ambassadors and special envoys on issues of mutual concern. Information and ideas gathered in the process of such interactions are used in the formulation of policy and adoption of diplomatic strategies.

Therefore, the role of Heads of State in the shaping of foreign policy and diplomacy is nowadays substantive and increasing. In their absence, Heads of State usually delegate Ministers of International Relations and Cooperation or Foreign Affairs to represent them at summits and other high-level events. Ambassadors accredited to various capitals of the world, and international organisations equally play an indispensable role in promoting and defending national interests of their countries.

As regards parliamentary diplomacy, many legislative organs of the State have international relations Committees or Caucuses in order to be able to influence foreign policy meaningfully. In countries like the United States, where the doctrine of separation of powers finds its most articulate expression in the constitutional provision that a President may not enter into treaties with foreign countries without the advice and consent of the Senate, the role of parliament in the conduct of foreign policy is even more pronounced. Nowadays, parliamentarians are extensively involved in international relations and are thus duty-bound to make their contribution to the projection of good images of their countries. Moreover, SADC, AU, UN and the EU provide platforms for parliamentary diplomacy and parliamentarians use diplomacy in such fora to pursue their countries' interests, to engage in international discourse and to alleviate frictions among sovereign States.

When the concept of Public Diplomacy (PD) was coined in the 1960s, it was seen as “the actions or an attempt by governments to inform and influence foreign publics”, to shape their views on issues and to take a more favourable view of the government. The fundamental distinction between traditional and public diplomacy is that the former is about relationships between the representatives of States or other international actors, whereas the latter targets the general public as well as the non-state actors.

Given the evolution and new dimensions of diplomacy, a country's diplomatic service is faced with new and emerging transnational issues, such as terrorism, cyber security organised crime, drug trafficking, migration, human trafficking, refugees, environment, human rights, energy, water, poverty and drought. Environmental degradation gave rise to measures, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to abate global warming and pollution of the seas respectively.

Diplomats thus have to cope with a dramatic increase in tasks of multilateral diplomacy, as the various international organisations and conferences formulate, negotiate and conclude international agreements such as protocols, conventions and treaties that are necessary to regulate transnational issues.

3. NAMIBIA'S DIPLOMACY: A HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The 20th century diplomacy had ceased to be just a means of reducing frictions among sovereigns and nurturing good State-to-State relations. A variety of non-state actors, like national liberation movements used it to achieve their goals. Namibia's struggle for freedom and independence was a prime exhibit of the effective use of diplomacy by non-state actors to realise the goal of self-determination and freedom. Southern Africa was subjected to the twin evils of apartheid and colonialism during the second half of the 20th century. These evils led to the formation of liberation movements, including the Namibian liberation movement, SWAPO, that sought to restore the sovereignty of countries and the dignity of their peoples. These movements used a combination of methods, such as political mobilisation, armed struggle and extensive diplomacy internationally to achieve their objectives.

Founded in 1960, SWAPO grew during the subsequent two decades to become the driving force of the Namibian people's fight for freedom. Initially, it pursued militant political activity inside the country. The movement then set up an underground exile network from which it prepared for and launched the armed struggle, as it embarked on a sustained diplomatic campaign to internationally isolate apartheid South Africa for its occupation of Namibia. It was thus in the crucible of that struggle that Namibia's first generation of diplomats were shaped.

In the 1960s, SWAPO and the South West Africa National Union (SWANU) petitioned the United Nations on South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia. The recognition of SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people, by the UN General Assembly, during the 1970s, under Resolution 31/146, was one of the foundation stones for Namibia's foreign policy. That recognition went hand-in-hand with the granting of observer status thus affording the movement with a valuable platform from which to effectively articulate the plight and aspirations of the Namibian people. It also provided Namibia's future leaders with invaluable insight into the workings of the UN. That the struggle was a great school of diplomacy is reflected in the vast international exposure availed to Namibia's future foreign policy practitioners. For example, the President of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, as the principal champion of the liberation struggle, along with his comrades was able to raise the movement's international profile, thereby placing the country's name on the world map.

Leading SWAPO delegations, the SWAPO President travelled the globe, meeting and winning the support of a broad range of the world's historic figures, such as Mao Tse-Tung as well as Chou En-Lai of the People's Republic of China, Ahmed Ben Bella of Algeria, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, Josip Tito of Yugoslavia, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Leonid Brezhnev and Andrei Gromyko of the Soviet Union, Erich Honecker of the GDR, Olof Palme of Sweden, Indira Gandhi of India, François Mitterrand of France, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Murtala Muhammed of Nigeria, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, Agostinho Neto of Angola, Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana and many others. Meetings with these eminent personalities, at the level of both bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, proved to be invaluable apprenticeship for the future conduct of Namibia's diplomacy. Also, the United Nations through the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Institute for Namibia (UNIN) significantly contributed to Namibia's capacity building in diplomacy.

By the time the exiled leadership of the movement was preparing for a successful return home in 1989, SWAPO had quite an extensive grasp of the international political scene. It had diplomatic representation in 20 capitals around the world. Indeed, for three decades these representations had worked assiduously to mobilise global public opinion in support of Namibia's struggle for liberation.

Besides ensuring that SWAPO gained broad international recognition as the sole and authentic representative of the oppressed Namibian people, this worldwide presence also helped to enhance the prestige of the movement to such an extent that SWAPO was the vital force to negotiate with on Namibia's independence. Its concurrence was required for any agreement to be reached on Namibia. It was moreover, instrumental in securing the passage of many United Nations (UN) and Organisation of African Unity (OAU) resolutions concerning Namibia throughout the 1960s, the 1970s and the 1980s. In the process, SWAPO's skills for diplomatic persuasion were significantly honed. By the latter half of the 1970s, the Namibian dispute was the most burning diplomatic issue in Southern Africa. It became the focal point around which a great variety of

issues, pressures and often conflicting interests evolved. The Founding President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma; the first Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Hage G. Geingob; the first and second Foreign Ministers, Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab and Hon. Hidipo L. Hamutenya; as well as some senior government officials were at the centre of that extraordinary diplomatic process. Following the independence of Angola in 1975, SWAPO's military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) acquired a broad rear base. Angola, under the leadership of President Agostinho Neto, declared itself a firm trench of the revolution in Africa and proceeded to act accordingly. Thus, SWAPO's armed actions against South African positions in Namibia increased in tempo, as the Angolan army and the presence of Cuban forces in Angola served as the bedrock for the acceleration of the liberation process for Namibia. The defeat of the Angolan factions – the National Liberation Front of Angola (FNLA) and National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola (UNITA) – together with their South African backers, in the first military confrontation with the Angolan army and its Cuban allies in 1975, caused consternation in the West. This resulted in a sudden spasm of European and North American interests in the region.

Up until the armed offensive, the major Western powers maintained cosy relations with the apartheid regime. By 1977 Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, all of which were members of the UN Security Council, constituted themselves in what became known as the Western Contact Group (Contact Group) on Namibia. They communicated their intention to both SWAPO and South Africa in the same year. In April 1978, the Contact Group tabled a proposal that set in motion what was to become a protracted negotiation process, leading to UN-supervised elections in Namibia under UNSC Resolution 435 of 1978.

In that intervention (UNSC Resolution 435 of 1978), the Contact Group engaged both SWAPO and South Africa as the two parties to the conflict. The Contact Group pitched the negotiations at a relatively high level by bringing their foreign ministers to launch the process. These were high profile figures, such as Cyrus Vance of the USA, Hans-Dietrich Genscher of Germany, David Owen of the UK, Louis de Guiringaud of France and Donald Jamieson of Canada. The fact that one of the two parties to the conflict was a non-state actor was not a constraining condition as far as these personalities were concerned.

The Western initiative was a late attempt to blunt what appeared to the West to be the growing influence of the Soviet Union and Cuba in Southern Africa. The West realised that it was time to get involved in shaping the outcome of the racial conflict in the region. And, having taken that bold move to intervene, the Western Contact Group had put their credibility on the line. They knew that if they failed to deliver an acceptable outcome, their initiative would be discredited as having been nothing more than an imperialist propaganda charade. They were thus anxious to see to it that, to the extent possible, their plan was sound, balanced and, therefore, acceptable to both SWAPO and South Africa. That plan provided, as its key element, for a United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG).

The plan stipulated that UNTAG would:

- create acceptable conditions for UN-supervised elections;
- ensure the repeal of discriminatory laws as well as the release of political prisoners;
- arrange for the return of exiles;
- monitor the conduct of the local police;
- confine to base both South African and PLAN forces;
- schedule and supervise the departure of South African troops from Namibia;
- demobilise the South African-created and controlled forces - South West Africa Territory Force (SWATF and Koevoet); and
- monitor the cessation of hostilities among the various forces.

The proposal appeared to be a relatively reasonable piece of diplomatic work, however, it did not allay all fears because mistrust and suspicion ran deep in both sides. South Africa was, for instance, quick to raise opposition by accusing the UN of being “partial” or biased in favour of SWAPO. Pretoria sought to turn this issue into a major stumbling block to the negotiations. It also refused to have face-to-face talks with SWAPO,

arguing that the movement had no claim to sovereign power to sit at the negotiating table with the Contact Group. In response, the Contact Group told South Africa that SWAPO was “the guys with the guns” who could not be ignored if the Namibian problem was to be solved. However, the Contact Group came up with a procedural innovation, called “proximity talks”, whereby South African and SWAPO negotiators were kept in separate hotels and the representatives of the Contact Group would then carry messages back and forth between the two sides. This hide-and-seek game proved to be time-consuming in that rather than talking directly to one another, the parties spent hours receiving, digesting, analysing and drafting proposals and counter-proposals. But this was the only workable formula that could enable the negotiating process to go forward.

Although South Africa was the first to quibble about shortcomings in the Western proposal, SWAPO, too, had some misgivings about the initiative, as President Nujoma pointed out during the first encounter with the representatives of the Five:

“You have invited us to come and discuss with you what you say is the initiative to bring about Namibia’s long overdue independence. We have accepted your invitation with mixed feelings. You have all along aligned yourselves with the apartheid regime and maintained cosy dealings with it, as it oppressed and brutalised our people. As such, our level of trust and confidence in your present initiative is low. But we have, nonetheless, accepted your invitation. We have come with an open mind. We will listen and negotiate.”

Regarding the plan, SWAPO argued that since Namibia was a large and highly militarised country, the South African forces there had to be effectively demobilised and sent home for free and fair elections to take place. It insisted that it was imperative that UNTAG had a credible military and police component as well as sizeable civilian personnel. Also, the movement refused to countenance the idea of leaving the question of Walvis Bay out of the plan.

After several months of tough bargaining, the Contact Group agreed to the argument for a significant UN presence in Namibia during the transition period. An adjustment was thus made to the original proposal to include up to 10 000 (ten thousand) UNTAG civilian and military personnel.

The Contact Group also agreed to a SWAPO demand that if the issue of Walvis Bay could not be a part of the plan, then there must be a separate resolution by the UN Security Council, committing the world body to the reintegration of Walvis Bay into the rest of the country. Accordingly, the Security Council had first to pass Resolution 432 on Walvis Bay before it could adopt Resolution 435 in September 1978.

Although Pretoria had accepted the Western Plan it remained in the negotiations grudgingly. As such, the regime went on projecting a truculent and uncooperative public stance. The reason for this acceptance is not hard to find. There were some international, regional and domestic pressures that obliged the regime to play ball.

First, the negotiating process offered the regime a window of opportunity to overcome its global ostracism. Secondly, the armed struggle in Namibia was imposing considerable cost: South Africa had tens of thousands of its troops tied up in Namibia, and that meant building and maintaining an extensive network of, among others, military bases, roads, airports, and airstrips. This complex network of infrastructure was quite obviously eating up billions of Rand every year. Thirdly, there was the recent loss of a vital strategic buffer zone, namely, the collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire in the region in 1974. Fourthly, Pretoria was just reeling from the aftershocks of the 1976 Soweto crisis and the death in detention of Steve Biko, the black consciousness movement leader, in South Africa. Therefore, Pretoria chose to rather plod along instead of rejecting the intervention of the West.

But, as it plodded along in the period between 1978 and 1980, the regime made sure that Resolution 435 could not be implemented immediately. It did so by creating some obstacles. One such obstacle was the massacre of Namibian refugees at Cassinga in Angola, in May 1978. This was a calculated move carried out to disrupt a Security Council meeting, called to finalise the implementation schedule of the independence plan. Naturally, the massacre provoked a SWAPO walk-out of the meeting. Pretoria wanted to see the implementation put on hold, as it sensed the election of Ronald Reagan. It thought that a right-wing conservative Reagan administration in Washington would be sympathetic to its “concerns”.

As it were, Ronald Reagan won the 1980 US presidential election. His administration took office in January 1981; and Pretoria, which had pinned its hope on the incoming administration scrapping the UN plan or at least indefinitely delaying its implementation, wasted no time to ingratiate itself with the Reagan conservatives. Within days of President Reagan's inauguration, South African leaders began to raise doubts about Resolution 435.

By March that year, a group of South African generals, led by Lieutenant General Pieter W. van der Westhuizen, head of the military intelligence, arrived in Washington to establish early contacts with President Reagan's military, intelligence and foreign policy teams. They were said to have carried with them a secret report on Soviet military designs on Southern Africa.

Barely five months after Reagan's inauguration, the South African Foreign Minister, Pik Botha, also travelled to Washington to present Pretoria's ideas for the envisaged US-South African strategic alliance. He sought to obtain a consensus on a set of what it thought to be shared strategic goals. First and foremost, South Africa wanted Washington's support for the exclusion of "all external communist forces" from the region. To embellish this enticement, Botha presented some strategic quid pro quos to the US for it to agree to steer away from the Namibian independence plan, which was inherited from the Carter administration. These were:

- the availability of South African military and naval bases to the US;
- the capacity of the South African Navy to play a role in the Indian and Atlantic Oceans;
- the removal of Soviet and Soviet-surrogate forces from Southern Africa;
- the availability of South African port facilities for US warships;
- increased support for Jonas Savimbi's campaign against the Angolan government;
- settlement of the Namibian problem in a manner that will produce a "moderate government, well disposed towards the USA".

But knowing that it was being lured into bed with a pariah state, Washington was not entirely excited by these. In fact, there were some in the administration who counselled caution about too close a relationship with South Africa. Nonetheless, the Reagan team reciprocated Pretoria's gestures with an offer of, among others, revisions of certain export controls related to government end-users; licensing; training in the field of search and rescue to be extended to South Africa; permission for Pretoria to have its defence attaché back in the USA; the relaxation of US visa restrictions on official visitors; and expanded cooperation in certain areas of military technology.

By June 1981, the administration had translated the idea of a strategic partnership with South Africa into a policy formulation, called "constructive engagement" which aimed at a tilt towards Pretoria. With the launch of that policy, the collective *démarche* of the Contact Group on Namibia was relegated to the periphery of the process to achieve Namibia's independence, as the Reaganite ideologues seized the centre stage of the process. They quickly moved to inject into the negotiating process new issues, thus throwing back the diplomatic process to the drawing board. The most contentious of these issues was the linkage pre-condition by which Reagan's Africa policy team argued that the resolution of the Namibian problem must go in parallel with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, thereby causing Namibia's independence to become hostage to a US Cold War agenda in the region.

In 1982, that team, led by Chester Crocker, took another South African "concern" on board and agreed to "fill a key gap in the UN plan". They introduced a set of constitutional principles, designed to entrench property rights, minority rights and checks and balances regarding Namibia's future Constitution. These ideological prescriptions were meant to build strictures around SWAPO's freedom to write a constitution of its choosing. This is to say that even though in deference to South Africa, Crocker and his team eschewed treating SWAPO as, in fact, one of the two parties to the conflict, they knew that SWAPO was going to play the lead in the writing of Namibia's Constitution, so, they had to help Pretoria to "fill that key gap in the plan". Naturally, the movement was resentful of these US-South African dictations of what the future Namibian Constitution should contain, inasmuch as it did not wish to be seen fighting against such democratic ideals. As such, it allowed the prescriptions to pass.

In the face of Washington's insistence on the linkage, the Contact Group virtually folded up, as the other members pulled out of the linkage-dominated negotiations. The Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Trudeau, was the first to distance his government from the linkage issue publicly. In June 1981 he called it unhelpful "stonewalling". The following month, Canada's spokesperson in the Contact Group, Mark MacGuigan, announced that Ottawa was quitting the Group. At the same time, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Germany's Foreign Minister, stated that the injection of Cuban withdrawal into the negotiations was a significant change in the US position; and that even though the allies in the Contact Group had always supported Cuban departure from Angola, he feared that a linkage condition would ensure a failure of the negotiations. In October 1982, Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, announced during a visit to Tanzania that the Contact Group's work was finished and that Cuban withdrawal was not its concern.

While the South Africans were happy to see American diplomatic pressure being shifted away from them to Angola through the linkage thereby diluting international attention from the implementation of the UN Plan, they were not entirely satisfied with what was going on. Their craved-for strategic alliance with Washington was not as rosy as they thought it would be. They were also worried that Washington's protracted manoeuvring about the Cuban withdrawal had open-ended political and financial costs to Pretoria. In other words, as the warring parties (Angola, Cuba, SWAPO, South Africa and UNITA) mobilised ever-greater resources on their climbing the ladder of military escalation, the sponsors of the linkage were sitting pretty at no practical cost to bear. Chester Crocker admitted this fact when he remarked that:

"Since none of the parties [to the conflict] depended on Washington for anything essential (except the chance of reducing ostracism and isolation), we did not have means to enforce deadlines. Our most potent threat, one we found difficult to use effectively, was the threat to wash our hands and go home."

Pretoria was thus made to appreciate the fact that inasmuch as the Reagan administration was using that regime to pursue its superpower goals in the region, it was not prepared to practically share the burden of cost with South Africa. Indeed, the South Africans were made to witness the number of Cuban troops in Angola substantially increasing and the fighting escalating between their forces, on the one hand, and the Cuban/FAPLA/SWAPO forces, on the contrary, during the linkage deadlock. The so-called strategic alliance was not helping Pretoria either to break out of their international isolation.

The apartheid regime had thus become somewhat disillusioned with the continued linkage diplomacy and, on several occasions, it made its irritation about this known. As Pauline Baker, a former member of the US Council on Foreign Relations had observed: "Indeed, South Africa seemed to have become an adversary of the USA rather than the regional ally initially envisioned by the Reagan administration."

By early 1984, South Africa began hinting that Cuban troop withdrawal was an American (not a South African) pre-occupation. In April that year, P.W. Botha stated that "if there were no progress on Resolution 435 and Cuban withdrawal, South Africa would not block Namibians from planning their future." He went further to say that "the people of Namibia cannot wait indefinitely for a breakthrough on the Cubans from Angola." The obvious implication of this pronouncement was that South Africa had come to feel that linkage may be negotiable.

Following the statement by P.W. Botha in the South African Parliament, Pretoria started to move on a second track. They sought the assistance of President David Kaunda of Zambia for a new initiative on Namibia, based on the so-called internal arrangement. This resulted in the holding of the "Multi-Party Conference" in Lusaka, in May 1984, whereby Pretoria cobbled together various groups in Namibia and took them to Zambia to meet with SWAPO to reach an agreement on an "internal solution". For President Kaunda, the diplomatic goal in holding that conference was an all-party Namibian consensus on a settlement formula that would lead straight to the implementation of Resolution 435 without the geopolitical complications of linkage. On the other hand, South Africa had its agenda, which was to achieve the following aims:

- to test the extent of SWAPO's attachment to the UN plan and the movement's openness to invitations to return home to discuss the possible alternative road to "independence," without UN involvement and under South African control;
- to give the isolated "Multi-Party" groups some external exposure and by so doing to confer on them an international stature equivalent to that of SWAPO;

- to afford South Africa an opportunity to assert itself as an African regional power that was capable of pursuing proactive rather than reactive foreign policy; and
- to signal to the Angolans that they might escape the pressure of linkage if they could persuade SWAPO to return home “peacefully” to Namibia. Of course, SWAPO was unmoved and uninterested in these double games. It only agreed to participate in the conference in deference to President Kaunda. Naturally, the conference collapsed in confusion as soon as SWAPO asked direct questions about how Resolution 435 fitted in the picture.

The South Africans did not, however, give up trying. They, again, asked President Kaunda to facilitate a secret meeting between the SWAPO leadership and South African generals, namely, Lieutenant General Pieter van der Westhuizen, head of military intelligence, Major General Cornelius van Tonder, chief director of military intelligence and General Lucas Daniel (Neil) Barnard, head of the national intelligence service. The South African intention was still to convince SWAPO to consider returning home to discuss with the “internal parties, other ways” of achieving Namibia’s independence. That meeting with the Generals took place at the State House in Lusaka, still in May 1984. But it, too, came to naught, as the SWAPO team, led by President Nujoma accompanied by Theo-Ben Gurirab, Hidipo Hamutenya, Kapuka Nauyala and Ngarikutuke Tjiriange stuck to its guns. They reminded Pretoria’s emissaries that for SWAPO there was only one way to resolve the Namibian problem and that was through the implementation of Resolution 435.

Continuing with their crude attempts at a unilateral approach to the Namibian issue, the South Africans organised yet another meeting at Mindelo, Cape Verde, in July 1984. The meeting, arranged through President Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde, was meant to get SWAPO to agree to a draft ceasefire accord. The meeting, too, was an attempt to persuade SWAPO to give up the armed struggle. But, like the previous ones, it ended up in failure. SWAPO, represented by Kapuka Nauyala and Aron Shihepo, both members of the movement’s negotiating team, accompanied by two commanders from the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), pointed out to the South Africans that the cessation of hostilities was a good idea but it would only make sense if it were a part of a broader scenario that included a definitive date for the implementation of Resolution 435 as it then existed.

There was a stalemate between 1982 and 1987, and thus little or no movement on the diplomatic front. The Contact Group had, by then, been virtually eclipsed. Meanwhile, Chester Crocker and his team were locked in a losing battle with the US Congress over anti-apartheid sanctions. On its part, SWAPO fell back on its most reliable support constituency in Western Europe and North America – the grassroots activists. Discreet diplomacy was now relegated to the back burner, and public diplomacy moved to the forefront as journalists, church leaders, trade unionists and progressive politicians were mobilised in support of the sanctions campaign. By June 1984, Reagan and his team lost the sanctions battle in Congress.

The activists in the West reactivated their campaign against the policy of constructive engagement as being “all carrot, no stick rapprochement with Pretoria”.

Back in the field of battle, the pendulum again swung to military build-up, as Cuba and its allies raised the ante during the second half of 1987 and the opening months of 1988. Havana decided, in concert with its Angolan and SWAPO allies, to tip the balance of military power in the region by deploying major elements of its elite 50th Division. It introduced into the Angolan theatre the MiG23s and helicopter gunships as well as top-rated pilots that were located at newly-built air bases at Cahama and Xangongo, just 40 miles from the Namibian border. Also, the Cubans threw into the field of battle hundreds of tanks and artillery pieces. Their force bristled with air defence radar and surface-to-air missile systems. Indeed, at that point, the Cubans had the technological edge over Pretoria.

Throughout the twists and turns of this complex diplomatic process, SWAPO was flexible in matters of tactics but remained single-minded and stuck to its demand for the implementation of Resolution 435. By May 1988, face-to-face talks began in London among Cuba, Angola, the Soviets, South Africa and the Americans. The Americans and the South Africans held to their position of not negotiating face-to-face with a non-state actor, i.e. they did not want SWAPO at the negotiating table. And since SWAPO was flexible, it did not insist on being at the talks. It knew that it would be fully consulted and briefed on all points of the discussions that

were taking place. Indeed, as the meetings were held in London, President Nujoma, accompanied by Hidipo Hamutenya and Kapuka Nauyala, were in Havana, where they were being given a blow-by-blow account of what was happening by Fidel Castro, while at the same time discussing the strategy and tactics on the battlefield designed to oblige Pretoria to be serious.

By the first half of 1988, Cuban planes had begun to penetrate the Namibian airspace, and on 27 June 1988 Cuban air force MiGs bombed South African-occupied positions at Calueque. The Cubans destroyed the dam and bridge, killing South African soldiers and forcing South African armoured and artillery units there to retreat across the border. At the same time, a PLAN detachment engaged and routed a South African unit at Tscipa. This bombing and engagement came right on the heels of the historic battle of Cuito Cuanavale. At that point, it was crystal clear that the forces were delicately poised against each other such that imminent danger existed. It was this military reality that created the necessary conditions for the parties to return to the negotiating table after a long period of diplomatic hibernation and to get serious with the implementation of Resolution 435.

Conscious of the need to remind Pretoria and Washington that the central issue of the negotiation was the independence of Namibia, SWAPO's allies - the Cubans and Angolans - demanded that the negotiating process reverts to the earlier-used Contact Group formula of proximity talks. They wanted SWAPO to be "in the proximity" of the talks for consultation and briefing. The remaining months of that year were taken up with 12 fast-tracked and exhaustive rounds of finalisation of the implementation details around which SWAPO had to be present. Ironically, the South Africans, who in the first instance did not want SWAPO present at the talks, began to warm up to the SWAPO delegates. It was in the course of those mingling lunches and dinners that South African diplomats, like Pik Botha, Sean Cleary, Rian Eksteen and Neil van Heerden, came to be on first-name terms with the Namibian delegates, as they came to realise that implementation was not only inevitable but was about to happen.

That diplomatic process was, indeed, a marathon, as testified by the non-stop rounds of meetings which, after London, took place in Cairo, New York, Cape Verde, Geneva, and three times in Brazzaville between May and December that year.

The struggle for liberation was a challenging but unique school of learning. It provided the leadership of the movement vast exposure to interaction with some of the world's most outstanding leaders. It also gave the would-be founding fathers and mothers of the Republic of Namibia a sound grasp of the international political scene and complexity of issues. In particular, the 11 years (from 1978-1989) of diplomatic negotiation was an apprenticeship for those who were destined to formulate and execute independent Namibia's foreign policy. The strategy of being faithful to national interest - the promotion of security and prosperity - while remaining flexible in matters of tactics, which guided SWAPO during the liberation struggle, was replicated in the peacetime negotiations from 1991-94 for the re-integration of Walvis Bay.

Similarly, high-level talks between Theo-Ben Gurirab and Pik Botha within the framework of the Walvis Bay and Offshore Islands negotiations led to initialling of the 1991 agreement on the demarcation and delimitation of the Orange River boundary between Namibia and South Africa.

The same negotiation strategy was also used in the case of the border dispute between Namibia and Botswana over Kasikili Island, from 1992-1999. However, in subsequent grand diplomacy, the two countries agreed to delimit and demarcate the boundary between Namibia and Botswana along the entire stretch of the Kwando/Linyanti/Chobe rivers, a decision finalised in 2003. Namibia's diplomacy, therefore, has its historical setting in the struggle for liberation, and has evolved through the early years of independence and remained relevant to the present-day complexities of international relations.

Effective branding with public diplomacy contributed to SWAPO being recognised as 'the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people'. Due to the tireless and passionate work of these diplomatic representatives, this paved the way for Namibia's independence on 21 March 1990. Namibia's international relations and cooperation regarding security is an extension of its national security policy. The policy ensures the defence of the territorial and national interest, public safety and internal security which guarantees unhindered function of democracy and maintenance of democratic institutions, structures, and the rule of law, peace and political stability in the country.

The independence of Namibia in 1990 coincided with the end of the Cold War and the increase in regional and intra-state conflicts thus causing a threat to peace, security and stability.

4. CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL FACTORS

The end of the Cold War

The end of the Cold War (1947-1991), which had dominated the international system for more than four decades, was as astonishing as it was swift. In its wake came Western-led demands for States to follow free-market economies and liberal democracies. A 'new world order' based primarily on Western values and interests were to replace the erstwhile East-West bipolar balance of power system which emerged after World War II and provided the basis for international stability.

Notwithstanding the expectations of many people in the developing countries, the end of the competition and confrontation between the two erstwhile East-West military blocs did not free up the vast resources previously used for the production of armaments and the strengthening of the two respective military-industrial complexes. The 'democratic dividend' at the end of the Cold War, did not universally benefit much of the developing world and its hopes for poverty reduction and a more equitable and just global economy and trade system. Competition for resources did not end, and at the time many developing countries found themselves drowning in debt and economic uncertainty.

While the nature of power changed partly from 'hard' to 'soft power' the system of power-based politics remained. This is evidenced by a multiplicity of new global actors, the growing importance of global markets, fiscal and production structures, and the rise of multilateral diplomacy and new forms of regionalism, as well as unilateralism.

In the case of the Middle East and parts of the African continent, regional unilateralism became the norm thus undermining the multilateral framework of the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). The first Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Gurirab, succinctly characterised the situation as follows:

"Hegemony is not dead; nuclear weapons have not been destroyed; unfair trade rules are still operative; technology is still monopolised by a few industrialised countries; the world remains divided between the haves and the have-nots. At best, the world order is in transition from the era of nuclear stand-off, between the military blocs to the present stage".

While the United States of America (USA) remains powerful in economic and military terms, the end of the Cold War spawned a diversity of economic, cultural, knowledge and technological centres of power, based on dimensions of 'soft power'. These multi-polar arenas of power and influence include the European Union (EU), the G20, BRICS, ASEAN, the African Union (AU) and various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and MERCOSUR.

NEW CHALLENGES

Globalisation

Namibia believes deeply in the value of dialogue among nations, and in international cooperation. The country is thus committed to raising its voice against the harmful consequences of globalisation. At the same time, Namibia acknowledges the benefits of global inter-dependence, which also creates opportunities for accessing external resources and knowledge vital for accelerating the development of the country's economy and the progress of its people.

Within the past decades, globalisation has come to mean that no nation is an island unto itself; and that each nation is influenced by decisions taken in distant capitals and markets. Such decisions can be on important matters of global finance, trade, investment, security, knowledge and technology flows. Namibia's Founding President H.E. Dr Sam Nujoma puts it aptly when he states that globalisation has clearly demonstrated the interdependence of nations. According to Dr Nujoma:

"No one country today can stand alone, be it big or small, powerful or weak. We are left with no alternative other than to seek closer cooperation with each other. The world will be a better place to live in if all countries could work in a concerted effort to bring about the necessary improvements in the quality of life of the human family. As we all know, too many people across the globe continue to suffer from ailments and maladies that can easily be prevented through concerted international action."

The patterns of contemporary globalisation are evident in economics, worldwide trade, finance, markets and production, military technology and the global arms trade, the growth of transnational terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the expansion of transnational and international law from trade to human rights. This is also evident in the ecological factors such as shared environmental problems, from global warming to species protection.

Globalisation demands vigilant governance. The role of governments is thus to find a prudent mix of policies and responses that enables their countries to take advantage of opportunities within the global economy while protecting themselves from the negative currents of domination from outside. For instance, if an artisan in the interior of the country can use the Internet to find direct access to consumers in faraway countries, cutting out many layers of intermediaries, that artisan can maximise earnings and expand the business. But, if scientific interchanges in plant genetics result in theft of a country's resources, it hurts national interests.

Therefore, it is up to each country to formulate policies that are conducive to the flourishing of domestic entrepreneurship and foreign investment flows while, at the same time, safeguarding national resources and retaining primary domestic ownership. The challenge for the Namibian government is, therefore, to concentrate on providing the appropriate policy and regulatory regime, while eliminating regulations that constrict growth and investments. This requires informed science diplomacy as a key element of the country's international relations.

The noted Brazilian sociologist and Professor of Law at Harvard University, in the USA, Roberto Unger, once pointed out that while the model of deregulation and open markets is the strong message that comes to developing countries from the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Western nations, if we look to the actual development experience of the Asian Tigers and even the USA in the 19th century, it has been a combination of governments and private capital, operating in tightly regulated markets, that provided the impetus for strong economic growth. This has been the case in the experience of countries like Japan, South Korea, and Singapore.

Therefore, it remains the responsibility of the Namibian Government to create an enabling regulatory environment for economic growth, giving to the local private entrepreneur maximum room for autonomous action, to generate competition and increase the global competitiveness of the economy. Hence, it is a core challenge for Namibian diplomacy to articulate and assertively sell the country's economic policy, good democratic governance and political stability as essential element of a productive economic/business environment. Establishing diversified economic relations that are mutually beneficial to different countries and regions has been declared a core component of the country's diplomacy. This is to say that marketing Namibia's business environment defines the economic plank of the country's diplomacy.

If globalisation is to have real value for all humanity around the shared earth, it must be adorned with a human face and infused with a sense of equity, justice and fair play. It should embrace the lessons that have been learnt from history and experience. This calls for the necessary political action to be taken to mitigate the adverse effects of globalisation on the lives of the people in the developing parts of the world. Therefore, to achieve a just distribution of the benefits, the negative side effects of globalisation must be mitigated by reforms of governance at international, regional as well as local levels. All, not just a privileged few, must have a voice into the fundamental processes of international politics and economics. Today Africa faces a real danger of missing out on the benefits of globalisation, along with most of the opportunities that technology and the knowledge-based global economy have created. It is thus Namibia's concern to avoid further marginalisation.

Given this principled stance on globalisation, the country is determined to work for global trade justice, to promote FDI in the local economy through multi-faceted Economic, Cultural and Science Diplomacy and to follow sound democratic governance principles at home and internationally. The post-Cold War world, however, is also confronted by some relatively new global factors that impact on Namibia's international relations.

Global Peace and Security

The prevailing world peace and security landscape is characterised by traditional and non-traditional threats. The threats to international peace and security include the absence of democratic governance, conflict, cyber warfare, drug trafficking and transnational organised crime and terrorism.

Contemporary security challenges and their impacts on Namibia's national interests, policies and strategic priorities are the driving factors that would determine how Namibia would interact in the international system. Thus, it is necessary for Namibia to diversify her options and create a web of support linkages that give access to trade, investment, transfer of technology, tourism inflow and many other areas of cooperation that generate direct benefits for the people of Namibia.

Guided by Article 96 of its Constitution:

- Namibia will continue to work in close collaboration with regional, continental and international institutions for conflict prevention, management and resolution.
- Namibia recognises peace and security as necessary pre-conditions for development and prosperity. Therefore, as a State party to various international and regional agreements and protocols, Namibia will act in conformity with the international legal instruments.
- Namibia will actively participate in regional and international peacekeeping efforts within the framework of SADC, the AU and the UN. Collaboration with other countries to strengthen conflict prevention, management and resolution capacity of regional institutions will also be enhanced.
- Namibia will continue to advocate for the active and equal participation of women in peace activities through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Environment

Humanity now appears to be living well above earth's carrying capacity, even though the ecological footprints of individual States vary to an extraordinary extent. Global problems, it is widely recognised, may need global solutions and pose a fundamental requirement for global environmental governance. However, as evidenced in Namibia, the local and regional action remains a vital aspect of responses to many environmental problems. One of the defining characteristics of environmental politics is the awareness of such interconnections and the need 'to think globally and to act locally'. The response at the international level is to attempt to provide global environmental governance, through specialised agencies of the United Nations (UN), such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE), the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) after the 1972 UNCHE, and the Marrakech Climate Change Conference (COP 22). As a State party to many of these international legal frameworks, Namibia emphasises international environmental cooperation, in areas as diverse as trans-boundary trade and pollution control, the protection of biodiversity, control of biotechnology and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), among others. The country is also committed to investing in capacity building to ensure sustainable social development, and to base its international environmental cooperation on shared scientific understanding and best practice.

Human Security

The concept of human security was developed in the late 1970s and early 1980s, to challenge the State-centric notion of security by focusing on the individual as the primary referent object of security. This represents an influential, but controversial, attempt by sections of the academic and policy community to redefine and broaden the meaning of security. Traditionally, security meant protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States from external military threats. This is the essence of national security.

Globalisation and the publication of the 1994 Human Development Report issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), defined the scope of human security to include seven areas:

- Economic security- an assured basic income for individuals, usually from productive work or, in the last resort, from some publicly financed safety net.

- Food security- ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to safe and nutritious basic food.
- Health security- guaranteeing a minimum protection for diseases such as HIV/AIDS and TB.
- Environmental security- protecting people from the short- and long-term ravages of nature, man-made threat in nature, and deterioration of the natural environment through drought, desertification and deforestation.
- Personal security- protecting people from physical violence, whether from the State or external States, from violent individuals and sub-state actors, from domestic abuse, from human trafficking, and from predatory adults.
- Community security- protecting people from loss of traditional relationships and values, and from sectarian, religious and ethnic violence.
- Political security- ensuring that people live in a society that honours basic human rights and ensures the freedom of individuals and groups from government attempts to exercise control over ideas and information.

At the heart of human security is the idea of sustainable human development which focuses on building human capabilities to overcome poverty, illiteracy, diseases, discrimination, restrictions on political freedom, and the threat of violent conflict. The essence of human security is ‘freedom from want’ and ‘freedom from fear’. It links development and rights-based democracy together and in this, it is both a vertical and horizontal expansion of the traditional notion of national security, defined as protection of State sovereignty and territorial integrity from external military threats. Human security, however, does not replace traditional notions of national security but complements it in important respects. In the context of Namibia’s international relations, the growth in the number of international and regional institutions that can mediate in conflicts, the impact of international norms against violence such as human sacrifice, human trafficking, slavery, war crimes and genocide, and the end of the Cold War, have all contributed to an active profile in United Nations, African Union (AU) and SADC preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, peacemaking, and to a more limited extent, post-conflict peacebuilding.

Cyber security

Cyber security is a relatively recent phenomenon and refers to specific attacks on the Internet itself, as well as on electronic databases and computer hardware and software. It threatens the integrity and security of electronic data and targets banks, financial institutions, private companies and national/government databases and agencies of strategic importance such as a reserve/national bank, the ministry of finance, the national intelligence service, parliament and agencies in the security system. While it takes different forms, one of the most disruptive and dangerous is what is called a ‘Distributed Denial of Service’ (DDOS) attack. Essentially, a DDOS attack floods servers with requests until they can no longer cope, thus rendering the service inoperable.

Cyber crime is also used to access personal bank accounts of clients and to facilitate money laundering and other forms of illicit fiscal transactions. It is often not clear who the attackers are. At any rate, most of the attacks use the same software, called Mirai, whose source code has been leaked online. The software accesses factory-set passwords, and turns those it can to gain access into a network of digital ‘slaves’ that can be directed to inundate targets with requests. While at the technical level, passwords of vulnerable devices such as websites and computers can be changed to make them more secure, many countries have now enacted dedicated laws to deal with cyber crime.

Namibia is in the process of passing a law against cyber crime and has established various agencies to protect the integrity of the financial and banking systems from threats of cyber crime. The Bank of Namibia (BON) through its Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) is one such agency. The combating of cyber crime requires close and sustained cooperation among agencies in the security system.

Terrorism

Namibia has a robust legal framework in place to counter terrorist threats, inclusive of the financing of terrorism. The country's National Security Policy Framework (NSPF) of 2014 provides a framework for various security agencies to cooperate in terms of a terrorist threat to the country. In order to minimise the threat of terrorism at the global and the regional level, Namibia is a signatory to various international and African Union (AU) legal instruments.

Definitions of terrorism vary widely, and there is no single universal definition of the phenomenon. All definitions start from a common point of departure that terrorism is characterised, first and foremost, by the use of violence. This tactic of violence takes many forms and often indiscriminately targets civilians (non-combatants). Other key features that can be considered essential aspects of any definition of terrorism include intention to influence, intimidation or coercion.

Motivated by political, social and ideological objectives, terrorism creates a state of terror and fear. Over the past half-century, however, terrorism has come to mean the use of violence by different groups to achieve political objectives. Terrorism differs from criminal violence in its degree of political legitimacy. As a strategy, terrorism often contravenes international norms of civil and political rights. Terrorist attacks are motivated by a diversity of factors including politics, economics, culture, religion and individual grievances that result in what is known as 'lone-wolf attacks' by individuals.

Elements of globalisation that permit the rapid exchange of ideas and goods have been leveraged and exploited by terrorist groups. These elements include, among others, the sharp rise in the number and distribution of refugees and migration, more generally, and reconfiguration of the global arms market, in particular. The technologies associated with globalisation allow terrorists to operate in highly distributed global 'networks' that share information and allow small cells to conduct highly coordinated, lethal attacks. In broad outline, it is very important to understand the key correlations with the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) for developing countries and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. For the developing countries, the key factors that drive terrorism include unresolved conflicts, a weak business environment, factionalised elites, a history of inter-group violence and high group grievances, political instability, poor safety and security, development failure, weak State capacity and low respect for human rights and international law.

Multilateralism

Multilateralism refers to international and transnational agreements and processes that facilitate international cooperation and control in many policy domains and with multiple agencies. The United Nations (UN) provides the most extensive locality for multilateralism on many global issues such as trans-boundary trade and environmental protection, the financing of terrorism and the governing of the global commons such as the high seas and the deep ocean floor. The global commons are usually understood as areas and resources that are not under sovereign jurisdiction, and they are not owned by anybody.

Generating and sharing scientific information has long been a function of international cooperation of such multilateral bodies as the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Perhaps, the greatest international effort to generate new scientific knowledge has been in the area of climate change, through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Namibia has ratified many such multilateral agreements and joined several international regimes, and this poses particular challenges regarding funding, scientific capacity and the need for advanced science diplomacy

Migration

The sheer scale and scope of global migration is a function not just of global interconnectedness, and growing complex interdependence, but also of global inequality across and among regions. Global migration is a function of the global political economy that privileges particular regions above others. Migration on a global scale is powerfully shaped by the patterns of contemporary globalisation in the spheres of economics, trade, finance, production and markets. The expansion of transnational and international law from trade to human rights, communication networks and social factors shifting patterns of migration from South to North and

East to West have turned migration into a major global issue. And population movements now come close to the record levels of the 19th century movements of people to the United States and Western Europe.

While acknowledging that migration, both voluntary and involuntary, is a century old phenomenon, Namibian Missions abroad will continue to engage the country's international development partners in critical discourses about the beneficiation of resources 'at home' in pursuit of the 'Growth at Home' strategy. This is to ensure the creation of the much-needed jobs, aimed at poverty eradication and brain drain.

United Nations Security Council Reform

The United Nations was established on 24 October 1945 by 51 countries, as a result of initiatives taken by the governments of the States that had led the war against Germany and Japan. Currently, more than 198 countries are members of the United Nations (UN). The principal organs of the United Nations such as the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council and the International Court of Justice, have undergone some change at both country and headquarters level.

At country level, a key feature of the reforms was the adoption of the Country Strategy Notes, and the strengthening of the Resident Coordinator, usually an employee of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). At Headquarters level in New York, reform efforts in the 1990s focused on the reorganisation and rationalisation of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In the UN Charter, the powers given to the General Assembly and ECOSOC were modest. The Council could only issue recommendations and reports. By contrast, the UN reform in the mid- and late 1990s allowed ECOSOC to become more assertive and take a leading role in the coordination of the UN system. The Council was to ensure that General Assembly policies were appropriately implemented on a system-wide basis. ECOSOC was given the power to make final decisions on the activities of its subsidiary bodies and other matters relating to system-wide coordination in economic, social, and related fields (A/50/227, Para 37).

The key organ of the UN that has seen the least change, however, is the Security Council. In contrast to the League of Nations, the United Nations recognised great power prerogatives in the Security Council. The UN Security Council was given the main responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. It was made up initially of 11 States, and then, after 1965, of 15 States. It includes five permanent members, namely the USA, Britain, France, Russia (previously the Soviet Union), and China, as well as 10 non-permanent members.

Unlike the former League of Nations, the decisions of the Security Council are binding, and must only be passed by a majority of nine out of the 15 members, as well as each of the five permanent members. The five permanent members, therefore, have veto power over all Security Council decisions. The convention emerged that abstention by a permanent member is not regarded as a veto.

Namibia reaffirms its commitment to the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).



5. ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

Commerce and trade have always been an essential element of politics among nations. As a country that has set itself the goal of raising the living standard of its people close to those in industrialised countries, and a high-income economy by the year 2030, Namibia works towards sustained economic growth and sustainable development to confront the challenges of the globalising world economy so as to benefit from the advantages that globalisation has to offer.

Namibia has thus opted to pursue an outward-looking strategy for economic growth and development. Export promotion is a central element of the strategy of economic development. Value addition and export of especially manufactured products, is key to expansion of the country's economy. Economic expansion, based on rapid export growth, is what will boost job creation and foreign exchange earnings.

Naturally, in charting the course of rapid economic growth and development and thereby improving the welfare of the broad majority of the Namibian people, the Government and the business community are required to generate and inject substantial investment into the economy, to achieve an average annual GDP growth of six to eight per cent. But, experience over the years has shown that, notwithstanding Namibia's relatively high rates of domestic savings, internally generated investment capital has not played a critical role in the financing of the country's productive growth or industrial development. Foreign investment, which means not only capital but also technology, managerial and technical skills, as well as secure access to foreign markets, is crucial. The targeting and mobilisation of these important, externally-sourced inputs are the economic priorities of Namibia's foreign policy.

Today's investors have a broad range of locations from which to choose. They are, foremost, interested in a country's political stability, the predictability of policy, the rule of law, the enforceability of contracts, the convertibility of the country's currency, the level of personal and corporate taxes, the type of incentives available, the availability and productivity of labour, the literacy and skills levels, and the trainability and adaptability of the labour force. Equally, investment decisions are influenced by economic indicators, quality of infrastructure, sufficient supply of water and energy and their costs.

Economic diplomacy thus entails carefully targeted investment promotion. Therefore, Foreign Service personnel should actively network and engage with the business community. There will also be relatively small companies (by international standards), which would want to venture into the global market. These are companies with specialised knowledge in, for example, fashion design, hospitality industry, jewellery industry, small-scale manufacturing, technology industry, arts and craft, poultry, and production and marketing of niche products. They should be targeted to invest in Namibia and also look at possible joint ventures with local entrepreneurs.

The targeting of investors must be predicated not only on good marketing skills but also on sufficient information to be able to respond convincingly to the questions of the potential investors. Therefore, research is key to effective investment and trade promotion because information is knowledge, and knowledge is power. In this case, it is the power of detailed information to effectively market the Namibian economic environment that will win over potential investors. Therefore, Namibia's Foreign Service personnel need to actively engage in gathering economic intelligence. This means cultivating a reading habit on economic publications, including company reports, the business media, as well as taking full advantage of information on the Internet.

Trade promotion goes far beyond the staging of trade fairs, trade missions and publicity. For example, in a market that distributes hundreds of specialty beer, diplomats need to know how to position the Namibian beer brand. They must be able to explain the particular quality that places the Namibian beer above many other beer brands. Therefore, investment of time in building up such knowledge is essential. When promoting investment, it is important to always bear in mind that industrialisation requires access to global markets. This means that Namibia should broaden her economic space and that diplomats must make it clear in their interactions with potential investors that they should not be worried about the size of Namibia's market because the country is positioning itself as a regional logistical hub and gateway to the SADC region and beyond.

Furthermore, to prime the country's growth of international exports, Namibia is playing an active role as a member of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). In this regard, the fast-tracking of the implementation of the SADC Free Trade Area and the Tri-partite Free Trade Area is an important agenda item for Namibia's economic diplomacy. Economic diplomacy requires that Namibian diplomats look at the bigger picture of globalisation and world economic integration.

Closely related to investment and trade promotion is the issue of technology transfer. Today, economies require large injections of knowledge and brainpower to be productive and competitive. Hence the country invests significantly in primary and secondary education. At the same time, identifying appropriate sources of technology is one of the important tasks of Namibia's foreign service. Heads of Mission and diplomatic staff will strive to be conversant with the broad range of economic issues, which constitute the intricacies of economic diplomacy. Namibian diplomats have an unflinching duty to track down suppliers of technological equipment, needed by the country's firms, especially the SME producers of export goods.

Another important feature of economic diplomacy is the increase in the direct involvement of Heads of State and Government in international economic issues. This is often referred to as personal diplomacy. At bilateral level, such involvement takes the form of frequent State and working visits, diplomatic correspondence and signing of agreements on trade, credit and other innovative arrangements, such as complex barter arrangements entailing, among others, payment in different goods and offsets.

The active engagement of Namibia's Head of State in the shaping of the country's foreign policy on international relations and cooperation best epitomises the phenomenon called personal diplomacy. Indeed, economic interests are at the centre of regional groupings. This is evidenced by the annual summits of regional groupings such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The summits are generally held to improve the Member States' coordination of their global economic interests with other elements of foreign policy. To a lesser degree, the nations of the South have also been seeking to develop their multilateral institutions, such as the G77, for coordinating their foreign policies and promoting their economic development agenda.

This shift in the focus of foreign policy, that is, making foreign policy more and more economically-oriented, has added new and technical aspects to the conduct of international relations. As such, diplomats are finding themselves obliged to learn new skills and to upgrade, on a continuous basis, their knowledge of economics and recast their negotiating skills, as they try to remain relevant to this new focus of international relations. Against this background, the choice of ambassadors to the countries that are regarded as key economic partners is increasingly being made on the grounds of competence to handle not just the traditional politico-strategic aspects of international relations, but also to deal with commercial and economic issues that are dominating inter-State relations.

As governments get externally more involved in the promotion and defence of domestic economic interests, the need is now greater than ever before for coordinated diplomatic action among all the nation's stakeholders, namely, the country's Head of State, the foreign minister, line ministers, diplomatic representatives, private entrepreneurs and various non-governmental agencies.



6. ISSUES OF NATIONAL PRIORITY

Times are changing quickly and we need to adapt to these changes with the same speed. These days, as Africans, we are talking of the second phase of the struggle; the struggle for economic emancipation. Our diplomacy must also enter this second phase. Diplomacy should not only reflect our fears, but also our aspirations. The new world is indeed a scary place but it's also a place where there are many opportunities. We need to understand what those opportunities are for a small country like Namibia and utilize modern tools to facilitate our developmental aspirations.

-Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia

Poverty Eradication and Building Prosperity

Article 98 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia states that 'the Namibian economy shall be based on the principles of a mixed economy with the objective of securing economic growth, prosperity and a life of human dignity for all Namibians'. Similarly, Article 95 specifies that 'the State shall actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people'. Furthermore, Namibia's development blueprint, Vision 2030, states that "by 2030 poverty and disparity among Namibians will be reduced to a minimum" while the pattern of income distribution will be equitable.

Poverty remains high in Namibia, affecting a significant portion of the population due to a high rate of unemployment rate and unequal distribution of resources. The unemployment rate remains high, necessitating a more robust and pragmatic approach to eradicate poverty and reduce income inequality. This is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations that strongly advocate ending poverty and hunger. In this context, the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, declared war on poverty, which resulted in the establishment of the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MPESW) with a clear mandate to take the lead in implementing short to long-term measures and to coordinate national efforts aimed at eradicating poverty and reducing inequality by the year 2025.

Eradicating poverty and inequality in Namibia is a top policy priority of Government as enshrined in the Constitution and Vision 2030 and the National Development Plans (NDPs). Significant progress has been achieved in reducing absolute poverty. Furthermore, reasonable improvement in income distribution has been achieved and is attributed to government's provision of social safety net programs, targeting mainly the elderly, the youth, people living with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children. The Government has put in place a Blueprint on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication that outlines four key pillars, namely hunger, strengthening social safety nets, basic services, and training and skills development. And, as an instant remedy for hunger and extreme poverty in the country, the Government has launched a Food Bank.

In addition, the Government has initiated targeted interventions aimed at ending hunger, expansion of social safety nets, provision of basic services such as water and sanitation, energy, shelter, education and skills development and creation of employment opportunities. Therefore, the war on poverty is a clarion call for action to all stakeholders, i.e. Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs), civil society, development partners, the academia, private sector and the media to respond pragmatically as one unit to fight poverty.

Furthermore, the central features of Namibia's socio-economic agenda include the creation of full and productive employment for all citizens. Moreover, the creation of sustainable employment for all Namibians will guarantee the eradication of poverty. The government will also work with foreign investors to promote harmonious labour relations and compliance with labour standards.

In this context, Namibia ascribes to the ILO's Decent Work Agenda and has a Decent Work Country Programme that is designed to work towards the achievement of Namibia's Vision 2030. Namibia is also a party to the African Union's seminal 2004 Ouagadougou Programme of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa and the Ouaga+10 Review, which mandated that employment be at the centre of planning for social and economic development.

Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. At the regional and international level, hunger, malnutrition, gender inequality, exploitation, marginalisation, high morbidity, and HIV-AIDS are a few of the complex challenges that are attributed to poverty. Hence, as part of the SADC, AU and UN family, Namibia will continue to build strategic partnerships

in implementing the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the AU Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Regional integration and mainstreaming of the AU Agenda 2063, in particular various programmes and activities such as cross-boundary shared water resources linkages, management and utilisation, aligned to the Strategy, are important as water is a basic need which is critical for poverty eradication.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 1 and SDG 2 of the United Nations Agenda 2030, clearly advocate ending poverty and hunger, thus complementing the Namibian Government's commitment to eventually eradicate poverty, which is a clear paradigm shift from the focus on poverty reduction. Among others, inclusive economic growth remains the foundation for poverty eradication and the reduction of inequality in Namibia.

Namibia's Policy on International Relations and Cooperation will therefore effectively pursue partnerships aimed at poverty eradication and enhancing economic development. Advocacy for sustainable, integrated social safety net systems of prevention and social care is a priority to be pursued at regional and international platforms in the spirit of the principles of solidarity and sharing, premised on the essence of human rights. In attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs), Namibian Missions are ideally placed in a global environment to pursue an advocacy role for resource mobilisation and international engagements for the advancement and implementation of identified poverty eradication interventions in the country.

As a beneficiary of international solidarity, Namibia's foreign policy is premised on the principle of promoting friendly relations for mutual learning from poverty eradication programmes and initiatives that have been successfully implemented in other countries through bilateral cooperation.

The Government is committed to mainstream and align priorities of the African Union Agenda 2063, as well as relevant SADC Treaties and Protocols in the country's policy. Poverty eradication is a multi-faceted responsibility that calls for building linkages within sectors and all stakeholders. Therefore, the Government fully recognises the importance for Namibia's international policy to leverage and build on strategic partnerships to unleash inclusive development opportunities in the best interest of vulnerable people in the country.

Agriculture

Agriculture is one of the key sectors of the Namibian economy in terms of employment creation, contribution to socio-economic development, food security and poverty eradication.

Namibia is a semi-arid country, with perennial rivers such as the Orange, Zambezi, Okavango and Kunene, which are subject to International Water Law and the Convention on Trans-Boundary Aquifers. This means that full utilisation of such waters will require concurrence of other riparian States. It is also characterised by dry savannah land with wood land in the North and North-east. As a semi-arid country, Namibia is particularly vulnerable to climate change. This has led to frequent droughts and periodic floods, causing food insecurity as well as loss of livestock.

The country has various policies, regulations and statutory documents in place which are aimed at addressing these challenges, including:

- Article 98 of the Namibian Constitution;
- Vision 2030;
- Namibia Agriculture Policy (Namibia Agriculture Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy, and the 2015 Namibia Agricultural Policy, which makes provision for sustainable management of natural resources); and
- Cabinet Directives, relevant laws and regulations.

The key aspects of the agricultural sector include food security, water and forestry.

Food Security

A well-managed agricultural sector has the potential to contribute significantly to food security and poverty eradication. This potential can only be realised with the full participation of public and private sector stakeholders across the entire agricultural value chain. In the implementation of its Agricultural Policy Agenda, strategies, programmes and other related policies and documents, Namibia will continue to strengthen:

- Its participation in regional and international cooperation and trade;
- Realisation of the AU Agenda 2063;
- Participation in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP);
- International Cooperation aligning itself with the Malabo Declaration on Agriculture 2014;
- Participation in Rome-based food and agricultural organisations, including FAO and IFAD;
- Import and export regulatory frameworks on agriculture;
- Efforts to take advantage of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) under the Generalised Systems of Preferences (GSP) programme, the European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), ASEAN, MERCOSUR and African markets.

Water

Namibia shares its perennial rivers with several countries. These shared water courses are guided by domestic policies and international protocols, treaties and conventions such as Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM), Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), Orange-Senqu River Commission (ORASECOM) and Cuvelai Watercourse Commission (CUVECOM). Other solutions such as construction of dams and desalination plants are considered in view of the increased demand for water by the various sectors of the economy as well as the pressures created by rural-urban migration trends.

Forestry

Namibia's diverse natural woodlands, savannahs and many other resources are managed in a participatory and sustainable manner, to help support rural livelihoods, enhance economic development and ensure environmental sustainability.

Blue Economy Initiative

The concept of the Blue Economy has gained currency since the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012. It puts emphasis on:

- Optimisation of the benefits derived from the development of the marine environment;
- Promotion of national equity including gender equality and in particular the inclusive growth and decent jobs for all; and
- Ensuring that national concerns and interests are properly reflected in the development of seas beyond national jurisdiction. This includes the refinement of international governance mechanism and concerns of states regarding seabed development.

These principles are in line with Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) under UN Agenda 2030. The Blue Economy concept complements the Green Economy and is a tool that offers specific mechanisms for coastal States to address their sustainable development needs.

The Blue Economy is of particular interest to Namibia as one of Africa's 38 coastal States with an extensive ocean resource base. The country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) comprises 504,000 square kilometres

and a 1,570 kilometre coastline along the South Atlantic Ocean. This EEZ is located in rich fishing grounds in the Benguela Current System, which is one of the most productive upwelling fishery systems in the world.

In Africa, the 'Blue World' consists of vast lakes, rivers and an extensive ocean resource base. Blue Economy is at the centre of the 'Africa We Want', as stipulated in the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2015–2025 Decade of Seas and Oceans. The SADC region has endorsed the Blue Economy concept. It considers oceans, lakes and rivers as development spaces where coordinated planning integrates conservation, sustainable use, oil and mineral wealth extraction, and maritime transport.

Namibia will continue to actively pursue policies aimed at the development and optimisation of its marine and inland waters economy, in areas such as fisheries, mining, tourism and maritime transport, in order to drive the country's economy and compete regionally and globally. The development of these sectors is guided by economic sustainability and equitable wealth distribution to all Namibians. This would in turn contribute to poverty eradication through, amongst others, employment creation and increased resource rent collections.

Namibia will continue to work with the UN through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and on the extension of Namibia's continental shelf, as this is a critical basis for the development of the Blue Economy.

The Government will develop a Blue Economy Strategic Plan that will address specific sustainable developmental targets on Namibia's marine and inland waters. Namibia will closely cooperate with relevant international partners at the UN, AU, Commonwealth and SADC on the Blue Economy.

Marine Resources

Namibia is among the largest fishing nations of the world. It has a well-managed coastline, which is 1,570 km long, and is rich in marine resources. Exports of fish and other marine products contribute significantly to the nation's total exports of goods and services. The GDP share of the fisheries sector in the economy has increased steadily over the years and there is potential for expansion. Namibia's sizable fishing fleet has made the country a significant player in the global fishing industry.

Namibia will continue to actively participate in specialised bodies like the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and the Commission on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). The country is a party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and a participant in other related international protocols and diplomatic activities, and participates in the open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

The country has built up legal and diplomatic expertise concerning the Law of the Sea. The aim is to safeguard and advance national interests in the ongoing global dialogue. In addition, marine and continental shelf wealth is an invaluable resource for Namibia's present and future generations.

Environment and Climate Change

Namibia has a firm commitment to the protection of the environment as affirmed by Article 95 (l) of the Constitution. Article 95 (l) calls for the:

- Maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia;
- Utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future;
- Provision of measures against the dumping or recycling of foreign nuclear and toxic waste on Namibian territory.

Furthermore, Article 91 (c) of the Constitution mandates the Ombudsman to investigate complaints concerning the:

- over-utilisation of natural resources,
- irrational exploitation of non-renewable resources,

- degradation and destruction of the ecosystem and failure to protect the beauty and character of Namibia.

Environmental issues are cross-cutting and are at the centre of sustainable development. Namibia recognises that the protection of the environment is a shared global responsibility and thus forms part of its external policy. As a concerned member of the international community, Namibia is committed to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and remains actively engaged in initiatives aimed at addressing global environmental and conservation issues.

The country has signed and ratified major global instruments on the environment, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Namibia enjoys substantive support from a number of bilateral and multilateral partners. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other partners are significant contributors to the country's national programmes to develop strategies for achieving sustainable management of the environment. The technical expertise of UNEP specialists has been of special value to the country's efforts. On the issue of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), Namibia will continue to work with others under the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) to create awareness on the impact of DLDD and to call the world's attention to this issue.

The AU Agenda 2063 provisions call upon Member States to sustainably manage natural resources as a global concern. Proper natural resource management has re-emerged as an issue of global importance and the recognition of mismanagement of natural resources has become a security factor.

Namibia, being an arid country, faces severe environmental constraints such as water shortage as a result of recurrent drought and insufficient energy supply. These constraints provide, at the same time, provide opportunities for sustainable water and energy solutions.

Poaching, trade in endangered species, persistent organic pollutants, trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste, destruction of wetlands and pollution do not only pose a threats to the environment and the existence of wildlife, but also cause land degradation and have the potential to undermine peace, security and stability of nations.

In April 2016, Namibia participated in the negotiations of the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; this agreement has 194 signatories and aims to deal with greenhouse gases, emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020. As of December 2016, 125 members had ratified the Paris Agreement.

The country has built up legal and diplomatic expertise concerning the Law of the Sea. The aim is to safeguard and advance national interests in the ongoing global dialogue. Marine and continental shelf wealth is an invaluable resource for Namibia's present and future generations.

Tourism

Tourism is a non-extractive industry and is cross-cutting as it affects and impacts all sectors of development through its multiplier effect. It is based on Article 95 (1) of the Namibian Constitution which provides for the "maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia and utilisation of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future".

Namibia's tourism growth and development strategy is hinged upon five principles:

- a) Private-Public Partnerships driven implementation;
- b) Whole of Government approach;
- c) Sustainability;
- d) Focus on priority markets that ensures return on investment, and
- e) A culture of customer service and excellence.

The above is aimed at boosting competitiveness that is expected to translate into increased tourist arrivals, length of stay, spending, geographic spread of tourists across all regions of Namibia and the contribution to GDP by tourism.

Namibia's diplomacy will continue to be geared towards the promotion and marketing of Destination Namibia through meetings, incentives, conferences and events, eco-tourism, cultural tourism, health tourism, sports tourism, adventure tourism and international cooperation.

Government will intensify efforts to attract investment into the Namibian tourism sector and ease visa regulations in order to facilitate the flow of tourism to Namibia as well as third country destinations for transit passengers. Inclusive participation of all stakeholders in the tourism sector will also be promoted. In order to contribute to tourism growth, the government will continue to promote Namibia's policy of using hunting as a conservation tool and its sustainable utilisation of natural resources.

In addition, the Government will:

- Continue to take measures against poaching of Namibia's wildlife with a special emphasis on the rhino, elephants, as well as wild cats.
- Promote and create awareness of Namibia's Community Based Natural Resource Management Programme (CBNRM), which will remain a priority of the Namibian government. That way its impact on the livelihood of many rural Namibians, as well as on the wildlife will be sustainably guaranteed.
- Work with the private sector, both established and emerging, to enable skills transfer in the tourism sector with a special focus on emerging tourism entrepreneurs. It will also seek partnerships with excellent training institutions and exchange programmes in the tourism sector, focusing on skills training initiatives from other countries to be undertaken in Namibia.
- Ensure that safety, security and wellbeing of tourists and visitors to Namibia will remain a priority.

At the same time, the Government will continue to support the national airline to access international markets and become more competitive and in the process contribute to Africa's connectivity.

Land Reform

Land reform and resettlement is a highly emotive issue in Namibia. The resolution of the land question, which includes access to both urban and rural land is, therefore, critical for social harmony and political stability in the country and consequently, remains a policy priority of the Government. The policy on land reform is contained in the Agricultural Commercial Land Act No. 6 of 1995 and Communal Land Reform Act No. 5 of 2002. The Government has pursued a policy of willing-seller, willing-buyer, with limited success due to various challenges.

Regrettably, landowners have taken advantage of this policy by grossly inflating land prices. These abuses as well as a lack of adequate funds continue to hamper Government's efforts to acquire more land for resettlement. This is compounded by the fact that landowners tend to offer poor quality farms to the Government. Notwithstanding the challenges, significant progress has been made in redistributing land to previously disadvantaged Namibians. Consequently, Government will continue to adjust and where necessary, adopt new policies to counter these abuses.

Namibia will continue to engage the international community to provide financial and technical support to assist resettled farmers with training, infrastructure development and acquisition of farming implements. Furthermore, an equally important issue related to land reform is access to urban land and affordable housing. The Namibia National Housing Policy of 1991, as amended in 2009 and the various National Development Plans over the years, affirm the constitutional provision that every Namibian has the right to shelter. Towards this end, the Government has embarked upon programmes to address acute shortage of housing and serviced land in urban areas.

Urban and Rural Development

Development and cooperation that can benefit Namibia at the urban and rural levels are very important. In this regard twinning agreements between cities and towns have proven to be an effective tool towards developing cooperation projects between various towns and cities in Namibia with partners all over the world. As a result, international support will be sought through mechanisms such as, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), in order to mobilise financial and technical support to complement Government efforts.

Trade and Investment

Trade and Investment are key contributors to sustained economic growth and development. At independence, the economy was small and the majority of people were excluded from any meaningful economic activity and effective participation. Namibia has made significant progress on all fronts since gaining independence in 1990, and is today considered as one of the most stable democracies in the world. Supported by prudent monetary policies and fiscal discipline, Namibia is able to maintain macro-economic stability.

However, Namibia's economy has thus far not reached the degree of diversification and value addition necessary to provide sustained economic growth. The reliance on the primary sector and exports of raw materials makes the Namibian economy vulnerable to external shocks. For example, most of the natural resources leave the country in raw form for final processing elsewhere.

Africa's trade and investment expansion has been constrained by factors such as political instability, dependence on primary commodities, poor incentives for exports and weak manufacturing base. As a result, Namibia, along with other African countries, have embarked upon liberalising foreign investment codes, concluded bilateral and multilateral investment treaties and have also recognised the role of the private sector as an engine for economic growth as well as Information and Communications Technology (ICT), which is at the centre of interaction.

While the Namibian economy is predominantly reliant on the primary sector, it offers abundant investment opportunities in sectors such as manufacturing, mining, energy, agriculture, infrastructure development, tourism, fishing and services.

More importantly, Namibia has long realised that it cannot effectively compete in this age of globalisation if it continues to rely on export of raw materials. The country's limited industrial base and export capacity hampers it from taking full advantage of the benefits offered through trade liberalisation and special trade arrangements such as the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union. The Government has, therefore, established a special Industrialisation Programme to encourage manufacturing and value addition. In addition, Namibia has put in place deliberate policy measures and incentives aimed at promoting export led industrialisation, manufacturing and export activities.

Namibia's trade policy and advantages are defined by its membership to the multilateral and regional trade arrangements, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP) of countries, which offer a reciprocal duty free and quota free access for all products.

The country's exports are mostly diamonds, uranium, lead, zinc, gold, tin, silver, tungsten, food and live animals, and manufactured products. And Namibia's main trading partners include Switzerland, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Spain, China, United States of America, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Germany, Bahamas, and South Korea. The country imports food products, petroleum products and fuel, machinery and equipment, and chemicals.

However, barriers of entry to new markets, exports of raw materials, exchange rate risks and lack of manufactured goods for exports have been negatively influencing the level of trade between Namibia and the rest of the world.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been an important contributor to the country's economic growth and development. It does this through direct and indirect impact on poverty reduction in the country. Directly FDI contributes to the increase in employment which reduces the number of people living below the poverty line. Indirectly, FDI contributes to economic development, resulting in the improvement of living standards due to

increases in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and improved technologies which increase productivity. Apart from the fact that FDI brings much-needed capital for investment in productive sectors of the economy of a country, it also brings skills and technology.

Namibia's Investment Promotion Act No. 9 of 2016 provides for the granting of certificate of status investment and special incentives for manufacturers and exporters. It provides for liberal investment conditions and equal treatment of foreign and local investors. The Investment Promotion Act also provides for the preservation of specific areas for local entrepreneurs, carves out activities for Government where there are joint ventures and identifies areas open to FDI. The Act also provides requirement for notification of changes of ownership, and rights and obligations for the Government and investors. With limited exceptions, all sectors of the Namibian economy are open to investment. The Act reiterates the protection of investment and property provided for in the Namibian Constitution. These investment-friendly laws are developed to make Namibia one of the best investment destinations in Africa. Namibia has a stable and well-developed financial services sector which allows it to attract significant Foreign Direct Investment.

The Namibian Diplomatic Missions have a special role to play in the promotion of Foreign Direct Investment through win-win partnerships. Our economic diplomacy strives to connect investment opportunities to investors in order to finance development.

Namibia has hitherto succeeded in limiting its exposure to external lenders. It has sought to eschew the temptation to borrow recklessly from foreign sources of capital other than those which lend on concessional terms. Because of this aversion to non-concessional credit, Namibia has hitherto not borrowed from the Bretton Woods institutions. The country's preference is for foreign direct investment as a more cost-effective way to raise capital to finance growth.

In this context, Namibia will take advantage of the benefits to be accrued from the SADC-COMESA-EAC Tripartite Free Trade Area. By diversifying into this important market, Namibia will increase the volume and value of trade that will lead to economic growth, poverty eradication and increased job creation. In addition, Namibia will continue to diversify the economy and add value to products for export optimisation. Local food production will also be encouraged in order to bring about food security.

Therefore, Namibian diplomats need to be at the forefront to convince the international community that, notwithstanding the country's classification as an upper-middle-income country, Namibia still needs concessional loans and preferential market access

Infrastructure Development

A reliable and well-developed infrastructure is a catalyst for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Without it, almost everything in the economic value chain tends to be slower, less reliable and more expensive. Namibia has well-developed physical infrastructure such as: efficient ports, maritime transport, aviation, road and rail networks, electricity distribution network, and tourism and ICT infrastructure. In view of these, as well as its geographic location, Namibia is well positioned as a Gateway and Logistics Hub for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and beyond.

Efficient and modern transport infrastructure can lead to improved livelihoods of many Namibians by facilitating the movement of people, goods and services, as well as the promotion of growth and integration of rural and urban economies. This contributes to job creation, development of entrepreneurship and poverty eradication.

Logistics Hub

Given Namibia's desire of becoming a logistics and distribution hub by 2030, significant investment outlays will have to be made in all four modes of transport infrastructure, namely road, rail, maritime and aviation. The concept of the Logistics Hub is to connect the world through Namibia as the preferred entry point into the Southern African region. Through the Logistics Hub, Namibia aims to achieve efficient trans-shipment, storage, transport networks, collection and distribution of goods, as well as cross border arrangements. This is based on the strategic geographical location of the Walvis Bay and Lüderitz ports, which are closer to

the west coast of Africa with direct shipping lines to various continents including North and South America, Europe and Asia.

Shipping lines are building larger vessels to take advantage of economies of scale, therefore, in order to remain competitive, Namibia will continue to expand and develop its port infrastructure to be able to handle larger vessels and bigger volumes of cargo. Ports have to become efficient with necessary modern facilities and equipment to render fast service delivery at low cost. However, developing port infrastructure alone is not enough. Road, rail, air and ICT infrastructure have to be developed equally to provide efficient and reliable transportation of goods to and from the ports.

Road Infrastructure/Transport Corridors

The Walvis Bay Corridor Group has focused on promoting road transport corridors between Namibia and its neighbouring countries. The Trans-Kalahari Corridor connects Namibia, Botswana and South Africa and links the west coast to the east coast through the Maputo Corridor. The second corridor is the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor, connecting the Port of Walvis Bay to Zambia and DRC. The third corridor is the Trans-Kunene Corridor, connecting the Port of Walvis Bay to Angola.

Physical infrastructure alone cannot bring about development without the soft components. Therefore, the Walvis Bay Corridor Group is actively involved in the Angola-Namibia-South Africa Spatial Development Initiative which focuses on trade and investment. This initiative explores other opportunities that have cross-border value chains. It also focuses on diversifying economies, as well as trade and investment facilitation and promotion.

Rail Infrastructure

Rail transportation plays a pivotal role towards local transportation of goods and facilitates regional integration. It has proven to be the most cost effective and reliable mode of transporting heavy and bulky goods. A functioning rail system will attract major shipping lines to the Port of Walvis Bay. The Government will, therefore, continue to invest in rail infrastructure in order to reduce congestion and pollution on national roads. This is also in line with the AU Agenda 2063 programme for an integrated Africa.

Aviation Infrastructure

In terms of aviation infrastructure, the national airline, Air Namibia, provides connections to a number of regional and international destinations. Within the context of the Logistics Master Plan, the aim is to capitalise on the air transportation market for the movement of people, goods and services in the SADC region, Africa and the world at large.

Mining

Namibia's rich natural resource endowment, comprising mineral, geological and energy resources, contributes to the country's socio-economic development, and thus plays a pivotal role in shaping the country's international relations and cooperation.

Natural resources are drivers of various economies worldwide. There is an increase in global competition for access to natural resources. However, the vulnerability posed by such primary commodity-based economies is illustrated by the difficulties experienced when such commodity prices decline.

Namibia is mindful of the geopolitical, environmental and developmental impact on the conduct of global diplomacy. The government has therefore put in place effective mineral and energy governance policies aimed at maximising economic opportunities, and achieving sustainable socio-economic development, economic competitiveness and efficiency. In addition, national and regional energy security, access to clean and affordable energy, eradication of poverty, infrastructure expansion and accelerated Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) are being pursued.

Since independence, the mining industry has been a reliable source of revenue for the Government as the biggest taxpayer to the national economy. It accounts for the bulk of merchandise exports and capital investment, second only to that of the Government itself. Namibia's rich mineral endowment - geological and

energy resources - therefore, contribute to the country's socio-economic development while simultaneously providing a stable and predictable regulatory and fiscal environment for the country to earn recognition as the third most attractive mining jurisdiction in Africa.

The mining sector is at the commanding height of the national economy, since the industry is an instrument necessary to breach the gap and bring about economic improvement. Accordingly, it offers significant employment opportunities and it should be noted that for every one person employed in the mining industry, eight to 10 other people benefit economically from such employment. Additionally, social support services, such as health and education services, are provided by mining companies, to the local communities within some of Namibia's mining towns.

In order to harness the full potential of the mining industry, Namibia's Mining Policy envisages more intensive mineral exploration, increased State participation in the mining sector, stimulation of local economic growth, and promotion and encouragement of local participation in mining exploration and mining operations.

The Government will organise and improve the small-scale mining sector. And as a major uranium producing country, the Government will continue to maintain its well-developed Nuclear Fuel Cycle policy in order to properly control and manage the uranium industry in line with international best practices and to ensure that Namibian uranium ore is only used for peaceful purposes. In addition, Namibia will seek to participate at meetings and gatherings related to nuclear security.

Energy

Africa has an abundance of energy resources, yet the least energy access rate worldwide. These resources are not optimally exploited in order to benefit Africa's population. It is therefore imperative to add value to Namibia's natural resource products in order to eradicate poverty and bring about prosperity. Successful tapping of all possible energy carriers in Namibia is vital for sustainable economic growth and development as energy is an essential prerequisite for most development efforts.

Namibia is cognizant of its responsibility and mandate to contribute towards increased access to modern energy services and improved energy security across the SADC region. This can be achieved by promoting a market-based uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and services. Namibia's Energy Policy will therefore harness benefits associated with regional integration, promotion of local and regional energy security, access to affordable energy and continued development to eradicate poverty and enhance Namibia's economic growth.

Oil and Gas

The progress made in the exploration of oil and gas will significantly contribute to Namibia's energy security. Namibia's economic diplomacy will support the increased involvement of the private sector, particularly international petroleum companies and their expertise as a means to develop the oil and gas sector. The intrinsic value of the oil and gas sector to the economy will provide the country with an enhanced ability to effectively negotiate with regard to a 'lower-for-longer' oil price environment. The Government will encourage investors to participate in the establishment of an oil refinery in Namibia in order to supply local markets and beyond.

Furthermore, Namibia's economic diplomacy with regard to natural resources will be guided and informed by its strategic concern to maximise economic opportunities and at the same time minimise the risks attributed to climate change caused by fossil fuels.

Education

Education is a fundamental and powerful tool to unleash Namibia's potential to achieve economic growth and development and thereby eradicating poverty in an effective manner. In addition, education has a distinct place in international relations and cooperation as it is central to all national efforts for development.

Basic Education

A quality basic education provides learners with opportunities to grow in various areas such as intellectual capacity, self-confidence, social skills development and other learning dispositions. A good foundation in education, therefore, translates into well-developed individuals who are able to make positive contributions to society.

In order to become competitive in the global economy, Namibia has to continue to promote multi-languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics and agriculture. In pursuing international cooperation, capacity building of teachers and trainers will be enhanced. The teaching of foreign languages must also find its rightful place in the Namibian education system. Given the importance of the agricultural sector in terms of economic growth and food security, Namibia will pay special attention to the teaching of this subject and the provision of qualified teachers.

Early childhood education is fundamental to the intellectual development of all human beings. Under the Education and Training Sector Improvement Programme (ETSIP), early childhood education became a priority as the formative years of growth are viewed as critical to succeeding in primary, secondary and eventually university settings. Consequently, Early Childhood Development Centres are being developed across the country for proper and all-round development. Namibian schools' development involves a number of strategies that include improved learning standards and curricula development, teacher development, improved availability of textbooks and learning support materials, and ICT infrastructure. For Namibian schools to remain connected to the global community, connectivity is being actively promoted. Due attention is being given to rural and remote schools. Furthermore, cognizance must be taken of the existing international framework agreements that can inform the processes of educational development and reform for enrichment and betterment of the country's education setup.

The basic education system must be improved in ways that create learning opportunities that secure success at higher learning levels, and provide reasonable access to choices of fields that are critical to Namibia.

Higher Education

Higher education institutions are tasked with producing the human capital that can drive innovation and spur solutions to various national challenges. Since higher education is critical to the development of all fields, it is essential that adequate investment in this field continues to be made, with the view to strengthen and expand higher education. Education and training continue to feature highly in Namibia's bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Namibian missions will continue to forge relations with other institutions of higher learning on research, development and innovation.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Vocational Education and Training (VET) is steadily emerging as a global front-runner in driving national development agendas, and features prominently in the strategic and operational priorities of regional economic communities and other multilateral organisations, including SADC, the African Union (AU), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The rationale to prioritise and invest in VET is strong and convincing and stems from the recognition of VET as a source of skills, knowledge and technology needed to drive productivity in knowledge-based and transitional societies for the 21st century.

VET is further accorded a high premium because of its potential to equip citizens with skills to be able to deal with global challenges of youth employability and unemployment. Productivity is the basis for sustained economic growth and wealth accumulation. For Namibia to improve its global competitiveness, it is important that the citizens have the required technical and vocational skills. A number of nations around the globe have succeeded in their economic growth and development thanks to skilled workers produced by their TVET systems. There are excellent examples of successful TVET systems around the world from which Namibia can learn.

Namibia will continue to address the shortage of skilled workers so as to meet the requirements of the modern economy. The challenge is multi-faceted; there are not enough TVET institutions, there are few qualified

TVET teachers and above all, TVET is still perceived as sub-standard education. Namibia needs, therefore, to urgently transform its TVET system and align it with other components to ensure articulation within the entire education system. A vocational career should not be an end in itself, but should open up other options for further development and qualifications. A strong partnership between the education system and the industry will render TVET attractive. Namibia has benefited from and contributed to international knowledge through various collaborations. Therefore, the country needs to strengthen cooperation with international stakeholders to seek for solutions to the key challenges in the education system.

Efforts must be made to tap into the skill sets of Namibians in the diaspora to contribute to national efforts in the education system.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The Vision 2030 strategy and plan stipulates that by 2030 Namibia will be a knowledge-based economy. Information Technology (IT) is an integral part of the country's overall strategic policy framework. IT is seen as a unique opportunity to enhance national capacity for development and as a means to obtain, disseminate, use and store information needed in the process of development. Information being the basis of knowledge, IT is a vital tool for progress in all areas of national priority. Rapidly changing technology has advanced and provides for instant communication. Namibia will, therefore, seize every available opportunity to gain competitive advantage.

Economic and political decision-makers must now process an unprecedented amount of information on the background and field of application of their decisions and actions. Also, the Government will work with the private sector to support the development of a highly IT literate labour force. This will enable the country to leapfrog stages of development. Hence, diplomatic personnel will be at the forefront of mobilising the acquisition and transfer of IT.

The access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) provides endless opportunities for innovation and job creation. Namibia recognises the importance of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as an enabler and contributor to its strategic goals and further economic development. The country's 2008 ICT Policy requires that all technologies store, process and transmit data which allows people and devices to communicate with each other. This enables new technologies and new innovative applications as well as the convergence between computing, communication and broadcasting. ICT enables interaction between Government and the society which leads to decentralised and inclusive citizen participation and transparent access to information. ICT is, therefore, an important pillar in the enhancement of a knowledge- driven economy and information society. The rapid development of ICT is shaping the manner in which diplomacy is conducted.

Namibia's ICT development is guided by various strategies, among others, Vision 2030, White Paper on Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Management 2004, National ICT Policy, SADC's Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan, AU Agenda 2063 and UN Agenda 2030. The country's ICT sector has improved tremendously and Namibia has been connected to the West Africa Cable System. This connection is destined to bring increased broadband capacity, boosting the uptake of internet access in the country. These developments will enhance the access to e-services such as e-governance, e-health, e-learning and e-democracy.

The core drivers of ICT ecosystem are infrastructure, internet applications, media content and software. The line ministries, regulators, competitors and authorities have the responsibility to manage the ICT sector. ICT should be utilised to enhance, promote and disseminate locally relevant content that fits in with cultural and social context. It should also be used as a tool to expand education and training programmes, particularly on ICT skills development.

Despite the advancement on internet connectivity via under-sea cables, mobile access is the most important factor to connect the unconnected in Namibia and Africa as a whole. The Government will strive to take advantage of the endless opportunities provided by ICT by cultivating partnerships with major industry players, as well as bilateral cooperation partners.

The protection of data is a global challenge that comes with the advancement of technology, therefore, caution should be exercised on the utilisation of ICT. There are potential risks on the internet such as identity theft, human trafficking, money laundering, terrorism and many other cybercrimes.

The Government will avail financial resources and encourage ICT in the school curriculum, particularly at early ages, and will increase investments through public-private partnerships for ICT infrastructure to create an enabling environment for access and participation of all citizens. Usage of ICT and new media platforms usage by the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) and Namibia's Diplomatic Missions will be enhanced.

In order to address the high cost and regulations of ICT services, international cooperation is essential and the Government will address that

Youth Empowerment

The majority of the Namibian population constitutes of youth between the ages of 15 – 34. Therefore, the youth, which are Namibia's future, must fully participate in the country's Development Agenda, in line with SADC's RISDP, Vision 2030, the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Agenda 2030. The Namibian Government through its various development programmes and policy frameworks will continue addressing the challenges faced by the youth in areas such as unemployment, poverty, higher education and housing. Education is a key driver of economic progress and the youth will be equipped adequately to develop and enhance their skills and talent to meet the demand of the domestic and international job markets.

Namibia, through its developmental plans, has initiated and continues to strengthen employment strategies involving youth in entrepreneurship drives, thus enabling them to have access to finance and credit in order to start their own business through SME development. The Government will continue to ensure that the youth benefit in the form of skills development, employment and business participation in the mainstream economy. The Government will further ensure inclusive youth participation in effective and democratic governance, economic empowerment of youth, strengthen youth engagement in building resilience in their communities, and include youth in the future development agenda for sustainable development.

The country has acceded to international treaties concerning youth and will encourage and facilitate the participation of its youth at international fora. Namibian Missions will facilitate the exposure of the Namibian youth to relevant international activities. Missions will continue to source for educational opportunities for the youth. And the Government will continue to develop and implement appropriate strategies for youth empowerment.

Culture and Sport

Cultural diplomacy has an important role to promote understanding, share identity, solidarity, norms, values, arts and traditions that establish linkages and exchanges, and strengthen relationships among peoples and countries. It includes the promotion and sharing of diverse cultures among nations and is sometimes referred to as public diplomacy. Placing culture at the heart of the development policy constitutes an essential investment in the world's future and a pre-condition to successful globalisation processes that takes into account the principles of cultural diversity.

Today, cultural heritage, creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism and cultural infrastructure generate substantial revenues, notably in developing countries, thereby fighting poverty and unemployment. Cultural and creative industries represent one of the most rapidly expanding sectors in the global economy. An example is Namibia's unique world heritage sites such as Twyfelfontein and Namib Sand Sea which attract thousands of tourists to the country annually.

Furthermore, the process of globalisation is transforming societies and bringing culture to the fore. Societies around the world are increasingly diverse and interconnected, which is opening up many new opportunities for exchange, mutual enrichment and respect between people of different cultures. Culture is now recognised as both an enabler and driver of sustainable development. As echoed in the AU Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), culture is now viewed as not only a source of identity and strength, but also as a vital resource for empowering communities.

The tenets of this section of the Foreign Policy are drawn from Article 19 of the Namibian Constitution, the Namibia Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy, which include international, continental and regional conventions and policy instruments on arts, culture and heritage that Namibia is signatory to. These are instruments such as the African Union's Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries, UNESCO's 1972 Convention Concerning

the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Namibia aims to become a winning sporting nation by professionalising sports and thus creating employment opportunities and enhancing prosperity. Sports has spill-over effects on other sectors. Sporting events and championships generally have positive effects on sectors such as tourism, culture, transport, media, and public infrastructure. Sports also has the ability to bring people together and create a sense of belonging and a shared feeling of success.

The Government will develop an integrated sports strategy that will focus on improving and expanding sports infrastructure, efficient administration, as well as developing a strong sports culture in schools at all levels. This will enable Namibia to develop sportsmen and sportswomen that will be able to compete at regional and international level.

In order to achieve the set goals, Namibian Diplomats will:

- Continue to promote sports partnerships between Namibian regions, cities, and towns with provinces, cities, and towns of countries of their accreditation.
- Promote sports tourism, including bidding and hosting of international sporting events. Similarly, Namibian Diplomats will seek support to facilitate Namibia's participation in sport events internationally.
- Promote capacity building for the Namibian sports sector with particular focus on sport administration, sport science, medics, physiotherapists, doctors, sport dieticians, sport psychologists, sport tourism, sport journalism and broadcasting, sport technical experts, coaches, umpires, linking tertiary institutions for training in sport, exchange of sport experts, participate and management in sport events, and research and development related to anti-doping.

Gender

Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution provides the foundation for Gender Equality in Namibia. It states that: "All persons shall be equal before the law. No persons may be discriminated against on the ground of sex, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion, creed, and social or economic status". On that basis and as a cross-sectoral policy issue, Gender Equality and Equity derives its legitimacy from the Constitution and is therefore prioritised in Namibia's international relations and cooperation.

Namibia is a Party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979), as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Since independence, Namibia has been part of the global decision-making on matters of Gender Equality. The country played an active role in the negotiation and adoption of the Beijing Platform of Action (1995). In this regard, Namibia spearheaded the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. The Government will continue to implement its national action plan in this regard and continue to raise awareness on this historic initiative.

Over the past 26 years, Namibia has signed and ratified various African Union legal instruments on the rights of women and the welfare of the child. These include: The African Union Charter on Human Rights, African Gender Parity Principle (2002), (The Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women), Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, African Women's Decade (2010 - 2020), African Agenda 2063, and the Kigali Declaration on Women and Human Rights (2016). Similarly, Namibia will continue to support the Pan African Women Organisation and its Southern African Regional Office (PAWO-SARO).

In fulfilment of its commitment to gender equality, Namibia has developed the required Policies and Acts such as:

- National Gender Policy and Plan of Action (2010 - 2020);
- Combating of Rape Act (2000);
- Combating of Domestic Violence Act (2003);

- Married Persons Equality Act (1996);
- Affirmative Action (Employment) 1988;
- Child Care and Protection Act of 2015, and
- Trafficking in Persons Bill (under legal drafting)

The feminisation of poverty in Namibia has resulted in gender-based violence, under-representation of women in politics, economic and other decision-making bodies. Persistent droughts due to climate change increase the vulnerability of communities, the majority of which are women. As a result, the Government has put in place policies and measures to address the afore-stated challenges.

Equal access to, and/or control of productive resources such as land, finance both in rural and urban areas, credit, business and financial literacy will be availed to women. In the spirit of the AU Campaign, 'Retire the Hoe to the Museum', Namibia will facilitate women's access to modern agricultural equipment (mechanisation), access to information on markets, and support services, in order to eradicate poverty and encourage the private sector to invest in programmes for women.

In applying the principle of gender parity, the Government will strive for gender parity in its diplomacy ensuring that women-owned businesses graduate from micro to macro levels in order to create employment. The Government will also ensure participation of Namibian women in global trade and investment forums such as World Economic Forum (WEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and WTO. Namibia will continue to strengthen the implementation of the Campaign for Accelerating Reduction of Maternal and Infant Mortality in Africa (CARMA), as well as embracing the UN Resolution ECN6, L5 that was adopted in 2015, and continue to provide access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment and care to all women and girls.

Health

Health is considered as a fundamental prerequisite to socio-economic development. The delivery of health services poses difficult policy challenges to any nation. As such, the health system in Namibia must be able to respond to challenges as prioritised in the country's National Health Policy Framework of 2010-2020. Namibia has made considerable progress since 1990 in the development of health infrastructure and the delivery of health services in line with the Vision 2030 strategy. These efforts have been recognised through the awards conferred to Namibia on the elimination of malaria, which has greatly boosted the flow of tourists to Namibia, as no vaccinations are required. Namibia is also acknowledged as a health tourism destination by its neighbours, as well as travellers from afar who trust the quality of the country's health services.

Taking into consideration the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Namibia has made remarkable progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (TB). In addition, the mother to child transmission has decreased. The Government will continue to play a leadership role in combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (TB), for the country to achieve its vision of ending the three diseases by 2030.

Political and government leaders as well as the country's diplomats will continue to play an important role in mobilising resources to support the national HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB programmes. The global community is experiencing an upsurge in incidences of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as hypertension, stroke, type-2-diabetes, cancers and psychosocial challenges and Namibia is no exception. Therefore, Namibia's foreign policy will also pay attention to challenges and new developments associated with non-communicable diseases.

Diplomats will continue to engage the global community on efforts that will contribute to the attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for all Namibians. An important element of the latter is the provision of affordable and high-quality medicine. Diplomats are, therefore, called upon to campaign for access to affordable drugs and simultaneously promote investment for local production of pharmaceuticals and related supplies.

The Government will upgrade and extend infrastructure to support health service delivery and the diplomats have an important role to play through the mobilisation of resources to support the development of the required infrastructure.

7. BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Namibia's cooperation with the rest of the world is guided by Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution which lays down the principles governing international relations and cooperation. To give effect to these Constitutional provisions and to address the various socio-economic challenges, the Government has adopted relevant policies. The essence of Namibia's cooperation with other countries is to create mutually beneficial relations to effect socio-economic development as envisaged by Namibia's national development policies. Bilateral cooperation, therefore, remains an important framework in the pursuit of Namibia's national interest.

Development is a shared responsibility, therefore, the Government continues to support the private sector and other non-state actors, to take advantage of the vast opportunities in the SADC region, the continent and the world as a whole. In this regard, Namibian Diplomatic Missions play an indispensable role.

Namibia and her Neighbours

In the broader context, relations between Namibia and her neighbours are primarily grounded in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Namibia is bordered by five countries namely Angola to the north, Botswana to the east, South Africa to the south with Zambia and Zimbabwe to the northeast. The country's relations with these countries are anchored in the universal norms, values, history, demographic similarities of kith and kin that Namibia shares with her neighbours, and also the common democratic governance architecture.

The political relations between Namibia and her neighbours encompass a range of arrangements, which include structured regular interactions to ensure deeper and integrated economic relations, free movement of persons, goods and services, cultural and educational relations, transport links by rail, road and air cooperation on environment, water management and pooling of energy resources. These values are also underpinned by mechanisms embodied in joint security arrangements aimed at combating trans-frontier crimes, such as illegal drug and human trafficking, illegal immigration and cattle rustling, as well as, the trans-frontier conservation areas.

Namibia attaches great importance to bilateral cooperation with the countries in Southern Africa, given the common political, economic and social goals. In this context, Namibia cooperates with countries in the region, within the framework of Bi-National Commissions and Joint Commissions of Cooperation.

Angola

The relations between Angola and Namibia are rooted in the common history of the two countries and peoples. The two countries fought side by side against colonialism and apartheid aggression. Further, the two neighbours are bound by strong blood relations and cultural affinities. It is, therefore, important for the two nations to continue strengthening and expanding these existing relations, including through people-to-people contacts. The various frameworks of cooperation between the two countries are the Framework Agreement on General Cooperation, and the Creation of the Namibia-Angola Joint Commission of Cooperation signed on 18 September 1990, which will remain active. Cooperation in the areas of trade, water, tourism, infrastructure development and energy is being conducted through bilateral agreements.

The Government continues to encourage the private sector to be involved in the country's reconstruction and industrialisation process in the fields of mining, marine fisheries, water, agriculture and infrastructure development. Given Namibia's arid climate with sporadic rainfall, Angola and Namibia share two important perennial rivers, the Kavango and the Kunene. It is, therefore, vital for the two countries to maintain close cooperation in agriculture, water and energy sectors. The on-going cooperation regarding the exploitation of the common marine resources in the Atlantic Ocean for mutual benefit will be further strengthened. Namibia and Angola signed an agreement to establish the Cuvelai River Basin Watercourse Commission (Cuvecom) on 16 September 2014. The two countries also cooperate on the Baines Hydro Power project for the construction of a dam and a hydropower station at Baynes on the Kunene River.

South Africa

Relations between Namibia and South Africa are multi-faceted. During the colonial occupation, the Namibian economy was integrated into the South African economy. Consequently, the country has remained a captive market for manufactured goods from South Africa. Following the independence of Namibia and the emergence of post-apartheid South Africa, the two countries initiated various mechanisms to address the historical injustices. The close ties between the ANC and SWAPO have facilitated and strengthened mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The Bi-National Commission, which meets annually, represents the highest forum for the cooperation between the two countries. This is the framework within which all matters of mutual interest and concern are addressed, including the common boundaries and the shared management of common water resources.

Botswana

Namibia maintains sisterly relations with Botswana which supported the country's struggle for freedom and independence. Botswana also rendered refuge to Namibians who escaped the German genocide. The two countries are actively engaged through the Joint Commission of Cooperation, which serves as a vehicle for bilateral cooperation in areas such as mining, integrated infrastructure development, energy, environment, water and tourism. The Permanent Joint Commission on Security and Defence functions well and meets regularly.

The bilateral relations between Namibia and Botswana are cordial as evidenced, amongst others, by the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The issue of demarcation of borders between Namibia and Botswana continues to feature prominently in discussions. Namibia has facilitated a dry port for Botswana. This will allow for the promotion of import-export activities of the Southern African Development Committee (SADC) members.

Zambia

Namibia maintains sisterly relations with Zambia which supported our struggle for freedom and national independence. The two countries maintain strong bilateral cooperation in a wide range of sectors such as energy, water, integrated infrastructure development, agriculture, tourism and mining. The Framework Agreement on Economic, Technical, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, as well as the Joint Permanent Commission on Cooperation between the two countries, continue to serve as a basis for further strengthening bilateral cooperation. Cooperation in the security sector is conducted through the Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security. The two countries work closely towards the full exploitation of the opportunities provided by proximity and cross-border affinities. Zambia has a Dry Port Facility in Walvis Bay which is fully operational and Zambian exporters and importers are benefitting tremendously from this facility.

Namibia imports electricity from Zambia. In addition, the construction of the Katima Mulilo Bridge over the Zambezi River, which came about as a collaborative effort between Namibia and Zambia, has been finalised and allows for the facilitation of trade and the movement of people between the two countries. Therefore, the relations between Namibia and Zambia have been broadened and deepened to acquire economic dimensions.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe assisted Namibia during the liberation struggle and the two countries maintain sisterly relations and good cooperation through the Permanent Joint Commission of Cooperation, which lays the foundation for continued bilateral relations. Within the framework of the Permanent Joint Commission of Cooperation, the two countries have signed various agreements and memoranda of understanding. These agreements and memoranda of understanding cover a broad range of sectors such as safety and security, civic affairs, fisheries, mines and energy, agriculture, human resource development as well as legal and diplomatic cooperation.

Relations with the rest of Africa

Namibia reaffirms its commitment to the ideals and purposes of the African Union, which aim at fostering greater African unity, integration and the prosperity of the African continent. In this regard, Namibia will

strive to strengthen cooperation with all African countries bilaterally and within the framework of the African Union, to contribute towards a united and prosperous Africa. The country further strives to cooperate with uranium producing countries in Africa to have a greater influence on the global price setting for uranium, as well as global discussions related to uranium and nuclear technology and security.

Middle East

Namibia maintains friendly bilateral relations with countries in the Middle East. Economic cooperation presents Namibia with opportunities to cooperate in areas such as mining and energy, trade and investment, agriculture, tourism, textiles industry and infrastructure development.

Europe

Namibia's political and economic relations with Europe play a significant role in its international relations and cooperation. The country attaches great importance to bilateral cooperation with European countries and within the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). Interaction with many of the European States provides Namibia with valuable inputs for development and economic growth. Therefore, there is scope for expanding the relations with these countries, particularly in areas of trade and investment, technical partnerships, gender issues, protection of the environment, and human rights.

Relations between Namibia and Germany are of a special character and, indeed, multi-faceted due to historical reasons, in particular, the dark chapter on genocide committed by imperial Germany against the people of Namibia. Presently, most of the efforts are devoted to enhancing trade and investment, tourism, development cooperation and people-to-people contacts.

The same applies to the relations between Namibia and Finland. The country attaches great importance to the Inter-Governmental Commission with the Russian Federation, which is the first of its kind with a major European country. Namibia will strive to form such cooperation with other European countries.

North America

Namibia will continue bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, mining and energy, fisheries and marine resources, wildlife conservation, and education and training with the countries of North America.

The US remains one of the world's largest economies, and Namibia will continue to ensure greater access to the US market for its products, and attract investment and technology. The country will also continue to tap into the various other initiatives by the US government such as the Power Africa Initiative, Trade in Africa Initiative, and the Young African Leaders Initiative. The relations between Namibia and Canada are based on mutual understanding. Canada remains an important bilateral partner with its participation in the mining sector.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Relations between Namibia and countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are important. Namibia has benefited considerably from development cooperation with these countries. These relations will be maintained and further expanded. Namibia and Cuba enjoy close and historical relations. The two countries cooperate in the areas of education, economic, health, sports, culture and fisheries.

Asia and the Pacific

Asia is home to some of the world's fastest growing economies. A large percentage of the world's buying power is resident in Asia. This factor makes Asia a critical region within the international context. Namibia places a high value on its relations with the countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

To ensure that globalisation and liberalisation bring equal opportunities for developing countries, the Asian region also offers bilateral and multilateral opportunities for stronger cooperation, particularly in terms of South-South cooperation, within the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77 and China.

As a result, Namibia is actively building all-around and mutually beneficial relations with various Asian States primarily the People’s Republic of China, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea and Thailand. The focus is on strengthening traditional partnerships by way of broadening cooperation in the areas of industrialisation, human resource development, technology transfer, tourism, trade and investment.

Australia plays a significant role in the mining sector of Namibia. Further cooperation in the areas of agriculture and water, tourism, education, sports and culture will be explored. Bilateral cooperation between Namibia and the People’s Republic of China through the Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation and Trade allows for engagement that has led to strengthened relations and increased cooperation.

Namibia and India have longstanding historical ties. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries is conducted through the Namibia-India Joint Commission of Cooperation and focuses, amongst others, on education, health, energy, technical cooperation and information and communication technology.



8. MULTILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Multilateral Partnerships

Namibia's policy on international relations and cooperation is an important tool of engagement in today's globalising world. The current stage of the world development is characterised by profound changes in the geopolitical landscape, mostly generated by the global financial and economic crisis. It is accompanied by increased economic and political turbulence at the global and regional levels.

New political and economic alliances between countries and regional economic communities are emerging and thus changing the character of traditional bilateral cooperation. Regional integration has become an effective means to increase the competitiveness of the participating States. Networks and associations, trade pacts and other economic arrangements, as well as regional reserve currencies, serve as instruments to enhance security as well as financial and economic stability.

Given its abundant natural resources and the fastest demographic growth, Africa has become the new economic frontier. Partnerships and programmes such as Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Russia-African Economic Cooperation, Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Franco-Africa Summit, and EU-Africa Strategic Partnership have been formed with the continent. Against this background, Namibia actively participates in these and other multilateral partnerships in the pursuit of its national priorities.

SACU

The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) is the oldest existing Customs Union in the world. It was established in 1910 under a Customs Union Agreement between the then Union of South Africa and the High Commission Territories of Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland. With the advent of independence for these territories, the agreement was updated and on 11 December 1969 it was re-launched with the signing of an agreement between the Republic of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. The updated Union officially entered into force on 1 March 1970. Namibia joined SACU as its fifth member at independence in 1990. SACU offers tariff-free access to a larger market and provides a secure and expanded market for Namibia.

The adoption of the 2002 SACU Agreement was a response to the organisation's historical legacy and regional political and economic changes during the 1990s. The new comprehensive SACU Agreement encompasses three main areas: governance and administration; economic policy and regulatory issues; and revenue sharing. Its stated objectives include:

- to promote the integration of the Members into the global economy;
- the facilitation of cross-border movement of goods between the Members;
- the establishment of effective, transparent and democratic institutions which will ensure equitable trade benefits to the Members;
- to facilitate the equitable sharing of revenue from customs, excise and additional duties;
- to promote fair competition, substantially increase investment and facilitate economic development; and
- to facilitate the development of common policies and strategies.

SACU remains an essential building block of SADC and continental integration and SACU matters remain very important for economic, financial and developmental objectives of its members. The Union's new institutional framework provides for a Tariff Board and Ad Hoc Tribunal and Namibia attaches great importance to these institutions and will work towards their operationalisation. Through the Growth at Home Strategy, Namibia will continue to develop and expand its industrial base to realise better value and market share for its exports. Furthermore, Namibia will continue to invest in skills, innovation and research and development to serve the needs of the economy and enhance national competitiveness in the region.

SADC

The history of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) can be traced from the Frontline States (FLS) of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia, established to extend support and political solidarity to the national liberation movements in Southern Africa, including SWAPO. Namibia will continue to value this legacy in its regional relations through effective participation in efforts aimed at promoting regional solidarity, unity, cohesion and prosperity. Therefore, Namibia attaches great importance to SADC and its Member States and shares common political, security and economic goals as clearly defined under the SADC Treaty (1992).

Namibia's commitment to SADC was declared by the Founding Father, President Sam Nujoma upon Namibia's admission to the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), when he stated that:

"...we of this sub-region including a post-apartheid, democratic, united and non-racial South Africa, are fully committed to pooling our resources for the common good of our countries and peoples. It is also a further demonstration that the peoples of this region, even when the obnoxious system of apartheid is removed, will still have the need to reach out to one another for regional growth and prosperity. SADCC will, no doubt, provide the right framework for the community of nations of Southern Africa ... we are living in times where countries the world over are moving towards integrated production and trade areas. In our sub-region, we have already made substantial progress in establishing a framework for future closer cooperation and must now examine more closely the modalities of a truly integrated single SADCC economy."

The 1992 Treaty adopted in Windhoek transformed the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) into the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

As an active member, Namibia is committed to regional cooperation and integration in the following areas as outlined in Article 21 of the SADC Treaty:

- (i) food security, land and agriculture;
- (ii) infrastructure and services;
- (iii) trade, industry, finance, investment and mining;
- (iv) social and human development and special programmes;
- (v) science and technology;
- (vi) natural resources and environment;
- (vii) social welfare, information, and culture; and
- (viii) politics, diplomacy, international relations, peace and security.

SADC has concluded Protocols in identified areas of cooperation and Namibia will continue to promote and implement the existing SADC Protocols. In strengthening relations with the other SADC Member States, Namibia is guided by the principle of mutual benefits as reflected in the Protocols of Trade, Finance and Investment, Defence and Security, Shared Water Courses, Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement, Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking and Facilitation of Movement of Persons.

The promotion of political stability, peace and security is an important national objective for Namibia. For this reason, Namibia plays an active role in the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the implementation of its Strategic Indicative Plan (SIPO). Cooperation, in this regard, includes the following:

- (i) protection of the people against instability arising from conflict;
- (ii) promotion of regional coordination and cooperation in defence and security in accordance with international law; and
- (iii) development of collective security, peacekeeping, disaster management and humanitarian assistance capacity.

SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan

The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) embraces a development integration approach which seeks to address production, infrastructure and efficiency barriers to growth and development in Member States and across the region. Therefore, Namibia is committed to the implementation of RISDP. In this context, Namibia will mainstream the revised RISDP and the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap of 2015-2063 in the country's national development agenda, prioritising the following areas:

- Industrial development and market integration, with the focus on the consolidation of the SADC Free Trade Area in goods and services, while synchronising it with other sub-continental and African trading arrangements and measures to enhance industrial development, especially efforts to promote regional value chains and cross-border economic linkages;
- Promotion of stability-oriented macroeconomic convergence, intra-regional investment and Foreign Direct Investment as well as financial market integration and monetary cooperation;
- Development of infrastructure in support of regional integration, through alignment with the SADC Regional Infrastructure Development Master Plan (RIDMP), focusing on energy, transport, tourism, information and communication technology (ICT), meteorology, and water; and
- Participation in the SADC special programmes with a regional dimension in education and human resource development, health, HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases, food security and trans-boundary natural resources, statistics, gender equality, science, technology, innovation, research and development, employment and labour, the environment, and the focus on the private sector.

African Union

The relationship of Namibia with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) dates back to the years of the national liberation struggle. The OAU played a critical role in the liberation of Namibia through the OAU Liberation Committee which was mandated to ensure that all efforts are made to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of the African people, for a free and independent continent. Globalisation presented the continent with new challenges in its quest for social and economic development. The OAU embarked upon strategic initiatives including the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty that provided for the establishment of the African Economic Community. To expedite economic emancipation, the OAU developed strategic partnerships with the rest of the world. It is in this context that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was established.

During the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government that was held in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001, the Heads of State and Government undertook a critical review of the political, economic and social situation on the continent. They took a historic decision to transform the OAU into the African Union (AU) and to set forth the AU programme of action, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). This programme was adopted at the inaugural AU Summit in Durban in July 2002. The main reason for the transformation of the OAU into the AU was to replace the continent's completed liberation agenda with one of socio-economic transformation and poverty reduction. Being acutely aware of the fundamental global changes that have occurred since the 1990s, African Heads of State and Government felt that there was a need to take effective steps to counter the marginalisation of countries on the continent and to ensure that Africa becomes an active partner in world affairs.

African Union Agenda 2063

In their 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, while acknowledging past successes and challenges, rededicated themselves to the continent's accelerated development and technological progress. They laid down the vision and ideals to serve as pillars for the continent in the foreseeable future, which have now been translated into concrete objectives, milestones, goals, targets and actions/measures. Agenda 2063, therefore, strives to remain focused on the challenges of a rapidly changing world. It captures aspirations for the Africa We Want as follows:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development;
2. An integrated continent politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance;
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law;
4. A peaceful and secure Africa;
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics;
6. An Africa where development is people driven, unleashing the potential of its women and youth; and
7. Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner.

Eradicating poverty is at the heart of Agenda 2063. The aspirations of the African people will only be accomplished if African countries succeed in eradicating poverty. Similarly, such aspirations would only be achieved if cooperation and solidarity amongst all African countries are strengthened.

Equally, Agenda 2063 calls for concerted efforts to make Africa self-reliant and form a united front towards international trade arrangements. It requires that Namibia intensifies efforts to reduce trade tariffs and barriers among African countries and makes trade among AU members freer. Namibia commits to the full implementation of Agenda 2063 and its Implementation Plans.

Given the size of Namibia's market, the country's potential to achieve the levels of economic growth that will sustainably change poverty and inequality relies on the integration of the economy in the regional and continental market. Namibia is strategically positioned to facilitate integration in the region and continent. Namibia continues to invest in infrastructure that is crucial to regional integration and intra-regional and continental trade. Such investments will allow Namibia to contribute to realising its aspirations and those fostered through the AU Agenda 2063. For that reason, Namibia's diplomacy will continue to focus on regional and continental integration as a fundamental pillar for sustainable development.

Namibia joined the community of nations at a time when multilateral tasks of diplomacy had proliferated considerably. As such, the country's diplomatic personnel are faced with a multitude of bewildering transnational issues, including terrorism, organised crime, and peaceful use of nuclear technology. Indeed, Namibia has to participate in the work of international organisations and conferences, negotiations and conclusion of agreements, protocols, conventions and treaties.

This significant increase in the tasks of multilateral diplomacy since the 20th Century is accompanied by a corresponding growth in interdependence among nations. At the same time, the international political dialogue has intensified, often involving several Heads of State and Government in direct encounters at summit levels, regionally and internationally.

Namibia's policy on multilateral institutions has been two-fold, namely: to articulate the country's interest in areas of peace and security, health, agriculture, meteorology, maritime affairs, education, science and technology, the environment and climate change, trade and investment, industrialisation; and to strengthen multilateralism.

United Nations

The UN is an important platform where all nations come together to discuss and decide on matters of mutual interest mainly in the areas of social and economic development, peace and security. Namibia is committed to the establishment of multilateral frameworks aimed at social and economic development and the protection of the environment. The country prides itself for having played a pivotal role during its Presidency of the 54th Session of the UN General Assembly, leading to the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDGs are the most successful global anti-poverty push that made a difference and generated momentum that informed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

One of the issues confronting the UN today is the revitalisation of the General Assembly, and the reform of the Security Council, to make it more democratic and representational. At issue are the Charter provisions that the UN belongs to all its Member States, collectively and individually. As is the case in an extended family, all of them, big and small, wealthy and poor, developing and developed, should have a meaningful stake in it. The General Assembly, the policymaking and representative organ of the UN, should, thus, be enabled to play that role effectively.

The Security Council needs to be more democratic and increase its membership in both permanent and non-permanent categories. Namibia remains committed to the Common African Position on the Reform of the UN Security Council. It is equally imperative for the General Assembly and the Security Council to better coordinate their activities, together with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the other vital institutions of the UN. Namibia will strive to play its role to contribute to the management of the UN Agencies. In that regard, the country has established an Examination Centre that will allow young professionals to write annual entrance examinations under the UN Young Professionals Programme (YPP) with the view to enhancing opportunities for their employment in the UN and its Agencies. Namibia remains committed to the fulfilment of its financial obligations towards the United Nations and its Agencies as it believes that assuring the organisation's financial viability is not only a primary condition for its success in its activities but also for its survival. Due to its unifying role in the world, the UN and its Agencies occupy a central place among international organisations. The Bretton Woods Institutions, i.e. the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have also gained in importance, as has the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

European Union

The European Union (EU) continues to support Namibia as articulated through the European Development Fund (EDF) and the multi-annual National Indicative Programme (NIP). The EU development support concentrates on areas such as education, health, rural development and infrastructure, good governance, support to civil society and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

Namibia, together with other SADC countries, has signed the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), in 2016. Through the Economic Partnership Agreement, all Namibian exports will enter the EU market through duty-free and quota-free access complemented with improved regulations on cumulation, infant industry protection, safeguards and other provisions, and takes into account Namibia's development stage and its aspirations to reinforce its economic integration within SADC and Africa. At the same time, the EU will benefit from improved access to the Namibian market.

Namibia will continue to consolidate its relations with the European Union through further engagements on the EU-Namibia relations.

Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries (MICs)

Namibia is classified as an upper-middle income country. The World Bank classification of per capita income used as a key indicator for benchmarking technical assistance does not reflect the actual particularities and vulnerabilities of MICs. The country played an important leading role in bringing the issue onto the UN Agenda, following the Windhoek Declaration (3rd International Conference on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries, Windhoek, 4-6 August 2008) which was translated into a UN Resolution on cooperation with Middle-Income Countries (MICs). As such, Namibia will work with other MICs with the purpose of addressing the common economic and developmental challenges that are preventing these countries from achieving the international development goals, including SDGs and the need to strengthen international support for the developmental efforts of MICs.

Treaties and Conventions

In respect of multilateral agreements to which Namibia is a signatory, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation serves as the facilitator, in cooperation with the relevant line ministries and the Office of the Attorney General. It also participates in the negotiation and interpretation of multilateral treaties, through the Treaties and Agreements Directorate. The Ministry is also the point of contact in relation to international legal organisations, including the International Court of Justice, the International Law Commission, the International Criminal Court, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority and Interpol.

International law is one of the principles of foreign policy laid down in the Constitution, entailing adherence to the general rules of public international law, and upholding all multilateral and bilateral treaty obligations.

South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation

Namibia is an active participant in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the G77 and in all the programmes aimed at strengthening South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation. Namibia sees herself as a bridge-builder, friend to all and enemy to none, and works for stronger mutual understanding and fruitful cooperation among all nations. South-South cooperation is a cherished dream of many leaders of the developing world. There are clear advantages in sharing development experience. However, the actual delivery of this promise has not met the anticipated levels, partly because the developing countries do not have the marketing ability to match that of the rich countries. The best yardstick to apply in judging issues relating to South-South cooperation is a national advantage. If it is clear that it will benefit Namibia to pursue an option in technology or in any other developmental activity that comes from a fellow South country, it should be followed up. One area where this may be particularly applicable is in educational technology, where the models of the South may be more appropriate to Namibia's circumstances. In dialogue with the G77 and other developing world groups, it would be worthwhile to work for concrete expression of South-South cooperation.

Namibia believes in a strategic partnership between developing and developed countries in addressing global challenges and the promotion of shared global public good.

UN Agencies and Namibia's Social Agenda

Namibia is an active member of various UN specialised Agencies that have been assigned the responsibility to address global social and developmental issues. Namibia recognises that the decline in UN core resources presents a challenge and sometimes tends to divert attention in national priorities set by recipient countries. Namibia, therefore, continues to promote ownership of development programmes and partnerships that recognise national leadership, to enable them to support the realisation of these national development objectives as outlined in the National Development Plans, Sustainable Development Goals and other developmental initiatives.

Multilateral agreements - with several organisations - have contributed to the social and health development of Namibia. Notable among these agreements are those with the UN Agencies including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which has supported the formulation of Namibia's National Population Policy for Sustainable Human Development and its implementation. The World Health Organisation has contributed to Namibia's health sector by providing experts and logistical support to the Ministry of Health and Social Services. In the face of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Namibia needs substantive and continuing assistance from WHO. Namibia will continue to work with all UN agencies in achieving national developmental objectives with sustainable development and poverty eradication at its centre.

Decolonisation

Namibia believes in the right to self-determination of nations and people. As such, it will continue to participate and contribute to all efforts leading to the realisation of the inalienable rights of peoples under colonial rule, as provided for in the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In this context, Namibia will continue to render its unwavering support and solidarity to the people of Western Sahara and Palestine in their quest for freedom and self-determination.

Disarmament

Namibia subscribes to the principles of disarmament and arms control, with the goal of promoting international peace and security. The country premises its position on the principle that arms control does not become a means to deprive developing countries of accessing advanced technologies required for their development.

Recognising that small arms and light weapons pose the greatest danger to peace and development on the African continent, Namibia is a signatory to the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects; the African Union (AU) Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons; and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

In addition, Namibia will continue to support the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Weapons; the Bamako declaration; and the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials, all of which aim to counter the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

As a State Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Pelindaba Treaty, Namibia is fully committed to the principles of disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses, and stands ready to work with other countries in furthering the disarmament agenda. Namibia will thus continue to play an active role in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) mandate of peaceful uses, safeguards and nuclear safety. As a major uranium producing country, Namibia considers it necessary to participate in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to promote and strengthen the non-proliferation regime, and to access nuclear technology for sustainable development. Being a State signatory to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Namibia is fully committed to the objectives set out in the Treaty. The Treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities.

The country believes that the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) will further strengthen the verification regime and will significantly contribute to the enhancement of international peace and security. Further, as signatory, Namibia fully supports the universality of the CTBT.

Namibia signed the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CWC) in 1993 and deposited its instruments of ratification in 1997, and is fully committed to the implementation of all relevant UN resolutions. Although the country does not produce or possess chemical weapons, various chemicals are used in industrial, agriculture and medical research activities.

Human Rights

Chapter 3 of the Namibian Constitution enshrines the fundamental human rights and freedoms for the people of Namibia and enjoins the Executive, Legislative, Judiciary and all organs of Government to respect and uphold these rights. Namibia's progressive domestic laws, policies and practices have earned her a high standing in the world. Namibia's progressive domestic laws and policies will continue to guide the country's foreign policy on issues of human rights.

Namibia is a State Party to human rights instruments, including the following seven core instruments such as:

- Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC);
- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESRC);
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT);
- International Convention on Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD);
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).
- Second optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict;
- Optional Protocol and Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Article 144 of the Namibian Constitution incorporates the general rules of public international law and international agreements binding on Namibia. By signing and ratifying regional, continental and international human rights instruments, Namibia is committed to the implementation of the following instruments:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR, 1966, entered into force 3 January 1976);
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, 1966, entered into force 23 March 1976);
- Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (1989, entered into force 28 February 1995);
- 2nd Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (1989, entered into force 11 July 1991);
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), (1966, entered into force 4 January 1969);
- International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (1973, entered into force 18 July 1976);

- ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (1958, entered into force on 15 June 1960);
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes of Genocide (1948, entered into force on 12 January 1951);
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (RSICC) (1998, entered into force on 1 July 2002);
- Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (1984, entered into force on 25 June 1987);
- ILO Convention concerning Forced Labour (1930, entered into force 1 May 1932);
- ILO Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (1957, entered into force 17 January 1959.)

Namibian diplomats will defend and promote the universality, the interdependence and the indivisibility of human rights, which seek to ensure effective realisation of the human rights of every individual and actively oppose relativism and the instrumentalisation of human rights. In terms of the international humanitarian law, non-state actors are also obliged to adhere and respect human rights at all times. Therefore, in advocating the protection and promotion of human rights, Namibia will ensure that civil and political rights continue to be promoted and protected and equal weight will be accorded to economic, social and cultural rights.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is an important forum where member states participate in the negotiations and decisions on world trade matters. The Constitution of the WTO states that the Parties recognise that “their relations in the field of trade and economic endeavour should be conducted to raising standards of living, ensuring full employment and a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand”.

Increased food security is a critical element for poverty eradication. Namibia’s strategy towards food security could contribute to increased productivity, economic opportunities and peace and stability. Namibia recognises the critical role played by the Rome-based Agencies in support of Namibia’s efforts to attain food security. The World Trade Organisation in its mandate has the responsibility to contribute to poverty reduction through predictable trade among its members, by providing rules that regulate trade in goods and services. It has a Dispute Settlement Mechanism.

The objectives of WTO are thus the administration of trade agreements, providing a forum for trade negotiations, settling trade disputes, reviewing national trade policies, assisting developing countries in implementing trade policy and cooperating with the international organisations.

Namibia’s diplomats are charged to actively pursue continued engagement in the WTO negotiation process, especially the conclusion of the remaining Doha mandate, to continue to defend the rights and obligations for Namibia under the WTO, and to continue to safeguard economic interest for developing countries by levelling the playing field for their exports. Namibia with other developing countries need levelled playing fields for their exports as they still face all kinds of protectionist barriers by the nations of the rich North. The international financial and trade institutions have evolved since their creation. It is noted that the World Bank is now more receptive to the contribution made by UN Member States to international, regional and national development policies. The IMF is currently a partner with Namibia on matters relating to fiscal, monetary and education policy. Namibia maintains its commitment to the global collective effort in reforming these Bretton Wood institutions to make them more effective, accessible and democratic.

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)

Namibia joined the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States in 1990 and became a signatory to the Georgetown Agreement and a qualified member of the Lomé IV Conventions, and subsequently its successor, the Cotonou Agreement. Namibia is party to the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which provides duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market for all Namibian products. Namibia will continue to participate in the ACP Group activities. The ACP Group needs to be strengthened and streamlined to remain relevant.

The country is committed to fostering South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation with ACP and other developing countries to support Intraregional and Regional Integration. In its efforts to secure greater access to global markets, Namibia will continue to contribute through ACP to the on-going Doha-Round of Negotiations at WTO. Namibia commits itself to continue working towards deepening the ACP-EU relationship as a unique North-South Development Cooperation Model. With new geopolitical realities and development challenges, it is important for the ACP to diversify and develop new strategic partnerships, to benefit from global agreements and initiatives in pursuit of sustainable development.

The Commonwealth

Namibia as an active member of the Commonwealth continues to participate at all levels of Commonwealth activities, including the highest level, which is the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The Commonwealth Secretariat provides valuable technical assistance that has contributed to Namibia's capacity building through civil service training, health, agriculture, education and various economic sectors.

Namibia continues to benefit from several Commonwealth Funds for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) funded projects, which include improving debt management; natural resources management; deployment of long-term CFTC experts; promoting Local Government reforms; National Export Strategy for Namibia; training for public sector development, and development of aquaculture sector.

Namibia will continue to support the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), Small States Centre of Excellence (SSCE), Commonwealth Trade Finance Facility (CTFF), Green Financing Facility and the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CEMAC) which were endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Malta in November 2015. These are Commonwealth initiatives aimed at enabling small States and vulnerable States to mitigate the impacts of climate change, help small and vulnerable States recover from natural disasters and focusing on improving broadband connectivity, diplomatic training and helping women in enterprise and ocean governance, as well as to help supplement trade and investment finance for small and developing economies.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

The Namibian Constitution prescribes that Namibia "adopts and maintains a policy of non-alignment" (Article 96). Consequently, the country will remain an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), participating in all its activities. The Movement remains an important unifying force for developing countries. NAM played a significant role in the struggle for Namibia's independence.

Peace and Security

Namibia recognises peace and security as necessary pre-conditions for development and prosperity. Therefore, as a State party to various international and regional agreements and protocols, Namibia will act in conformity with the international legal instruments, and will actively participate in regional and international peacekeeping efforts within the framework of SADC, AU and the UN. Namibia also recognises the pivotal role that women can play in bringing peace and security. To this end, during its term as President of the UN Security Council, Namibia initiated a process that led to the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in October 2000. Namibia is committed to the full implementation of Resolution 1325. Namibia will continue to advocate for the active and equal participation of women in peace activities through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Collaboration with other countries to strengthen the conflict prevention, management and resolution capacity of regional institutions will also be enhanced. As one of its primary responsibilities, the UN is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. Namibia will continue to contribute to the UN efforts aiming at the preservation of international peace and security. In conformity with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, Namibia is committed to working with regional and sub-regional partners to contribute to the maintenance of peace, security and stability. Namibia remains committed to multilateralism and will, therefore, discourage any unilateral action not sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council.

Contemporary Security Challenges

Namibia's international relations and cooperation in terms of security is an extension of its national security policy which ensures the defence of the territorial and national interest, public safety and internal security which guarantees unhindered function of democracy and maintenance of democratic institutions, structures, and the rule of law, peace and political stability in the country. The independence of Namibia in 1990 coincided with the end of the Cold War. Notwithstanding the end of the Cold War, regional and intra-state conflicts have increased thus causing a threat to peace and security. Contemporary security challenges and their impact on Namibia's national interests, policies and strategic priorities are the driving factors that would determine how Namibia would interact in the international system. Thus it is necessary for Namibia to diversify her options and create a web of support linkages that give access to trade, investment, transfer of technology, tourism inflow and many other areas of cooperation that generate direct benefits for the people of Namibia.

The prevailing world peace and security landscape is characterised by traditional and non-traditional threats. The threats to international peace and security include the absence of democratic governance, conflict, cyber warfare, drug trafficking, transnational organised crime and terrorism. Guided by Article 96 of its Constitution, Namibia will continue to work in close collaboration with regional, continental and international institutions for conflict prevention, management and resolution.



Public Diplomacy and Namibia's Achievements

Since the attainment of independence, Namibia has established a strong narrative which has globally projected a positive image of the country. In 2015, Namibia was rated as the fifth best-governed country on the continent by the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance; rated fourth in Africa as a 'clean country' in terms of corruption by Transparency International; and ranked first as the country with the 'freest press in Africa' by Reporters without Borders.

In addition, in 1991 Windhoek hosted the first-ever conference of African journalists which culminated in the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press. This Declaration resulted in the adoption by the UN General Assembly of 3 May as the World Press Freedom Day. Namibia, indeed, has a proud record of press freedom.

At the multilateral level, Namibia has made great strides. In 1995, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the first Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation served as Rapporteur for the UN Conference on Women in Beijing, thus firmly positioning the country on the global agenda on the advancement of women. Hon. Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab, first Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Speaker of the National Assembly, served as President of the 54th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. As President of the General Assembly, he led the inter-governmental negotiations that culminated in the Millennium Declaration.

In September 2000, the Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma, co-chaired the Millennium Summit that adopted the Millennium Declaration, which included the Millennium Development Goals, committing nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.

Former President, Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, was conferred the Mo Ibrahim Award on Good Leadership in November 2015 in recognition of his leadership qualities as well as Namibia's collective governance ethos.

Namibia is one of the few countries in the world that has achieved gender parity in the area of decision-making in Parliament and increased participation of women in decision-making at various Government institutions. This was made possible by a far-sighted decision of the ruling SWAPO Party, at its Extraordinary Congress in June 2013, where it amended its Constitution to bring about the 50/50 representation of men and women in the party's organs and structures. Namibia remains committed to continuing playing a significant role in promoting democracy, human rights, peace and stability and prosperity among the community of nations.

Namibia's Public Diplomacy activities will continue to project the positive image of smooth and peaceful transfer of power, political stability, democratic governance, first class infrastructure, stable industrial relations and competitive investment climate. Moreover, Namibia's Public Diplomacy will leverage this positive image to attract investment.

Mechanism of Public Diplomacy

Namibia's Public Diplomacy is a tool for ensuring that the country accrues maximum benefit from engagements with the international community to enhance the development agenda as espoused in Vision 2030, National Development Plans, the Harambee Prosperity Plan, SADC Integration Agenda, the AU Agenda 2063, and the 2030 Development Agenda of the United Nations. The Government will continue to promote effective implementation of public diplomacy strategies through the increased use of ICT. Political leaders and diplomats are the major players in shaping Namibia's image internationally. However, all Namibians are encouraged to contribute towards the positive image of the country. Today, the role of national branding in public diplomacy is highly recognised in promoting the country's image and identity. Efforts similar to 'Namibia Land of Wide Open Spaces' by Air Namibia, and 'Namibia Inc.' by Smart Partnership Dialogue Movement, will continue to be made. MIRC as a leader of Namibia's public diplomacy will mobilise relevant stakeholders to come up with a Namibian brand in the future.

In further enhancing Namibia's positive image, Government will:

- Mobilise think-tanks and other institutions for outreach,
- Encourage networking with Parliamentary groups as well as establishing friendship associations.

Namibia's Image

A nation's image or brand is the impression that comes to mind when asked about that country. In today's world, it is important for people, companies, institutions and nations to have a positive image whether domestically or internationally as it is normal for private business and public decision-makers to preferentially do business with people, countries and brands they know, like and trust. The Constitution of Namibia assigns the role of torchbearer of Namibia's international relations to the President of the Republic, who appoints Ministers and diplomats to manage the image of the country.

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation is the protector and reputation manager of Namibia's image in the international arena. It does so through its Diplomatic Missions. The inspiration and definition of Namibia's image come from the Namibian Constitution that stipulates the fundamental principles of human dignity, promotion of human rights, liberty, equality, peace, justice, transparency, accountability, national and economic security. At its core, the Namibian image is true to its history. Its diverse cultural heritage encapsulates the true essence as well as the sheer drive of the Namibian people to withstand and overcome adverse situations facing them.

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation is tasked to ensure that Namibia continues to be a respectable and trusted international community member by honouring her obligations, for the international community to support Namibia, translate her political independence into economic independence and contribute to and benefit from the implementation of AU Agenda 2063.

However, every Namibian has the patriotic duty to be the Nation's Brand Ambassador, irrespective of the role and place they occupy as citizens, to promote the image, because "when the tide rises, all the boats are lifted". When the image of a country is positive, prospects to attract trade, investment and tourism improve. As a result, the country as a whole will benefit from business and the growth of jobs at home.

This is in line with the metaphor of the Namibian House, as espoused by His Excellency Dr Hage G. Geingob, symbolising the vision for an inclusive, unitary, peaceful and prosperous Namibia, where no one should feel left out, as the special purpose vehicle to drive Namibia's public diplomacy. Namibia derived its Positive Nation image from the positive legacy of the National Liberation Struggle led by SWAPO.

SWAPO was able to leverage public diplomacy and forge many friendships and cooperation partnerships with people, organisations and countries around the world in support of Namibia's freedom and independence. The successful introduction of Post-Independence National Reconciliation Policy and its successes on the diplomatic field contributed to the positive image of Namibia.

Namibia's image is not only about merely promoting the Namibian story. It is also about affirming that it is an African country mindful of the fact that Pan-African solidarity was the bedrock of the support that led to its independence. The country remains committed to continuing its active role towards SADC and AU integration in accordance with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and AU Agenda 2063 respectively.

The government acknowledges the emergence of non-state actors and platforms shaping international Public Diplomacy and will continue to actively participate in their activities to further enhance Namibia's image.

10. A PROFESSIONAL FOREIGN SERVICE

Modern day diplomacy is all about credibility, knowledge and the ability to process information at breathtaking speeds. Modern day diplomats are expected to be knowledgeable in various fields such as finance, economics, energy, environment, health and security.

- **Dr. Hage G. Geingob**, President of the Republic of Namibia

Diplomatic Service of Excellence

Namibia's Policy on International Relations and Cooperation is based on Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution and guided by Vision 2030 strategy, National Development Plans and short and medium-term development strategies. Namibia's Policy on International Relations and Cooperation as an expression of domestic policy focuses on trade and investment, sustainable development, tourism, capacity building, access to technology, the Namibian diaspora, and all activities that contribute towards poverty eradication in Namibia.

Therefore, to meet this challenge, many developing countries now charge their Diplomatic Missions to engage considerably in economic promotional activities. Indeed, the need to attract and use foreign investment to spur economic growth and development is now widely recognised as being very central to the drive to eradicate poverty and bring about prosperity. Hence, the global competition to attract foreign investment is so stiff today that some countries are spending large sums of money to beat their competitors at the game, as they seek to attract foreign investment to their shores. Diplomats are now required to have specialised marketing skills and to sharpen their understanding of economics.

The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation is responsible for the overall management of the diplomatic apparatus internally and externally. It also ensures the efficient and effective functioning of its administrative and management systems at home and in the diplomatic missions. That involves the execution of policy, as Namibia seeks to reach out to its cooperating partners and to build relationships through reciprocal State, official and working visits, the signing of agreements and protocols, as well as other forms of global networking.

A Professional Diplomatic Service

In making the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation one of excellence and be able of carrying out cost-effective foreign policy, the Government will undertake the following:

- i. Professionalisation of the country's foreign service for the effective management of diplomacy;
- ii. Establish a Diplomatic Academy;
- iii. Establish a Language Centre, and encourage Namibian Diplomats to master at least two foreign languages out of the AU and the UN;
- iv. Motivate students to develop an interest in international relations by offering them internship opportunities at the Ministry and Missions;
- v. Establish a Think Tank to strengthen the research capacity in the Ministry;
- vi. Develop skills in ICT;
- vii. Caution against the use of social media for classified information;
- viii. Bi-annual Heads of Mission Conferences will continue, and regional Heads of Mission consultations will be institutionalised;
- ix. Continue to effectively utilise the experience of retired Namibian Ambassadors, for national and international assignments, and
- x. Appoint roving ambassadors to enhance Namibia's diplomatic presence.

Management Resources

To ensure a Foreign Service of Excellence, it is vital to effectively and efficiently manage the full resource spectrum, which includes:

- i. Human Resource capacity, including well-being, as well as the values of Respect, Discipline, Leadership, Self-reliance, Teamwork, Integrity, Competence and Commitment,
- ii. Financial Resources, prudently managed within budgetary confines, and
- iii. Modern communication facilities and equipment.

Cost effective Foreign Policy

In order to maintain and manage a cost-effective foreign policy, the government will require undertaking measures such as:

- i) Streamlining staffing at Missions;
- ii) Effective utilisation of Honorary Consuls, with well-defined responsibilities and monitoring mechanisms, and
- iii) Regularising the inspection and stocktaking missions to Namibia's Diplomatic Missions to assess overall operations.

Welfare of Namibian Nationals Abroad

Namibian Missions and Consular Posts do assist Namibian citizens abroad, such as students, businesspeople, tourists or individuals in detention. In cases of repatriation of Namibians in distress or the remains of deceased citizens, the Government through the Namibian Missions will continue to assist where possible.

Diaspora

Namibian Missions and Consular Posts will continue to utilise the immense potential of Namibians in the Diaspora. In this regard, it is necessary to use and tap in on their skills and expertise, to contribute to the development of the country and, to link them with Namibian institutions where their skills may be required, including encouraging and engaging them to invest in their paternal/maternal country.

Posting Policy

The Ministry has adopted a functional and transparent posting policy which contains guidelines on placing diplomatic officials while at the same time enhancing their capacity.





Republic of Namibia

Ministry of International Relations & Cooperation

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