

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT OF H.E. HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT  
THE 66<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**23 SEPTEMBER 2011,**

**NEW YORK**

*\*Check Against Delivery*

Your Excellency, the President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly,  
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,  
Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the UN,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to congratulate you and your country Qatar, on your election as President of this Session. With your wisdom and experience, I am confident that you will successfully steer the proceedings of this august Assembly. I assure you of my delegation's cooperation and support. I also congratulate H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon on his re-election as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. President,

I commend you for choosing "*The Role of Mediation in the Settlement of Disputes by Peaceful Means*" as the theme for this debate. Peaceful settlement of disputes as provided for in Chapter 6 of the UN Charter is an important principle that the international community should uphold in finding solutions to conflicts around the world.

Our Government recognizes the legitimacy of the peaceful demands for democratic changes in the sister countries such as Tunisia and Egypt. However, we believe that the demands for democratic change should be locally driven. They should not be used as a pretext to undermine the fundamental principle of sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of independent states. We are concerned that all efforts by the African Union to find a peaceful negotiated solution in Libya were ignored and undermined.

Never in the history of United Nations has the sanctity of the principle of non-intervention been compromised as we have witnessed recently in Libya. The military intervention by foreign powers reminds Africa of the infamous Berlin Conference of 1884/1885, when Africa was carved up by imperial powers.

In the aftermath of the recent political changes in some African countries, it is important to underscore the need to promote genuine national reconciliation and unity and begin urgently to address the challenges of poverty and unemployment, especially among the youth. Respect for justice, fundamental human rights, the rule of law and good governance should be pre-conditions for lasting peace.

Following successful negotiations, the Republic of South Sudan attained her independence on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2011. This demonstrated statesmanship and wisdom of the leaders of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan, who chose the path of peace and mediation. We call on the two countries to resolve all outstanding issues through peaceful means. I wish H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit success as he leads the people of South Sudan in building a united and prosperous nation.

Mr. President, Namibia calls for the immediate implementation of the UN Settlement Plan and relevant UN resolutions calling for the holding of a free and fair referendum in Western Sahara.

On Palestine, I reaffirm our full and unequivocal support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to achieve their inalienable right to self-determination and national independence. Namibia supports the admission of Palestine into the United Nations as a full member.

Mr President, the overwhelming majority of the Member States of this Assembly have for many years, expressed serious concerns over the continuing economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. Namibia calls for an immediate and unconditional lifting of this embargo.

Namibia welcomes the recent signing of the Road Map by the Malagasy political stakeholders, with facilitation of the SADC Mediator. The signing of the Road Map paves the way to bring an end to the political crisis and return that country to constitutional order and democratic rule.

The United Nations and the international community should provide adequate financial support to Madagascar and become actively engaged in the ongoing mediation efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Road Map.

Mr President, the people of Somalia are not only faced with the political uncertainty, but also a severe drought and famine which have resulted into a humanitarian catastrophe. Namibia has contributed food supplies to the people of Somalia as part of the international efforts to address this crisis.

The effects of climate change are real and are acutely felt in every part of the globe. For the past three consecutive years, Namibia has experienced devastating floods, which negatively impacted on our development plans. I take this opportunity, once again, to thank members of the international community who responded positively to our emergency appeal for assistance.

Mr President, now more than ever, all member states should work towards the successful conclusion of the *17<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*, which will take place in Durban later this year. This should set the tone for the *UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)*, to be held in Rio de Janeiro next year.

The reform of the United Nation system, especially the Security Council has been painfully slow. I underscore Namibia's firm conviction that a reformed Security Council should be democratic, representative and transparent in its working methods. This is consistent with the African common position.

Mr President, it is incumbent upon all Member States to work together to strengthen our Organization in order to guarantee international peace and security, and to advance sustainable economic and social development for a fairer and more just world for all.

I thank you.