

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBAMBA, PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE  
OCCASION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 68TH  
SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

**26 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**NEW YORK**

*\*Check Against Delivery*

Your Excellency, Dr. John Ashe, President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly,  
Your Majesties,  
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,  
Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last weekend, a heinous terrorist attack was perpetrated against the Republic of Kenya, resulting in the deaths of, and injuries to dozens innocent civilians as well as the destruction of property. We condemn this senseless attack and express our fraternal solidarity with the people of Kenya.

Mr. President,

The theme for the 68<sup>th</sup> Session: "*Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage*" echoes the words of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter: "*to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom*". As leaders we are therefore challenged to ensure that the Post-2015 Development Agenda promotes sustainable development and a secure future for the current and future generations.

When the Millennium Summit adopted the MDGs in 2000, it emphasized the urgency of making the world a better place for all humanity. That promise gave hope to millions who live in abject poverty and deprivation in many parts of the world. As we approach the 2015 deadline, we should ask ourselves whether we have lived up to the commitments that we made in 2000.

We believe that the post-2015 Development Agenda should be people-centered and inclusive, with a focus on the provision of health care, education, food security and nutrition, energy, potable water, gender equality and the empowerment of women, the youth and people with disabilities.

The challenges of climate change and environmental conservation should continue to enjoy attention. During the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, we made

commitments to create a new global partnership characterized by a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability. The outcome document of the Summit, titled: *"The Future We Want"*, identified poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

As I speak, the Eleventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification is about to conclude its deliberations in our capital city, Windhoek. We believe that the outcome of the Conference will further strengthen the Convention's role of mitigating the effects of desertification and droughts, particularly in Africa.

While developing countries have made commendable advances in the areas of social and economic development, many challenges remain. Namibia, holds the view that the post-2015 Development Agenda should take into account the valid concerns and challenges faced by middle-income countries, such as access to grants and concessional funding for developmental purposes.

The post-2015 Development Agenda should also embrace the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, the rule of law, and the maintenance of international peace and security. I wish to emphasize that sustainable development requires adequate and predictable financing at local and international levels.

Mr President,

Namibia is concerned about conflict situations and growing instability in many parts of the world. We welcome the signing of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Region. Namibia urges all signatories to the Cooperation Framework to work in good faith towards its full implementation. We commend the efforts of the Intervention Brigade to restore peace in eastern DRC and call upon the international community to extend its full support for the success of this important mission.

We also appeal to the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the communities affected by the conflict.

Namibia welcomes the decision of the reformed Special Electoral Court, which paves the way towards the holding of Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Madagascar next month. We call upon the international community to provide the necessary financial, technical and logistical support for the holding of successful elections in that country.

Our Government continues to support the efforts of the AU, through AMISOM, to stabilize the situation in Somalia.

The SADC and AU Election Observer Missions declared the harmonized elections in Zimbabwe as free, peaceful and credible. In this context, Namibia calls for the unconditional lifting of all sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.

We welcome the holding of democratic elections in Mali and congratulate President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on his election.

We commend ECOWAS and other international partners for the leading role they played in the resolution of the crisis in that country.

I take this opportunity to reiterate our steadfast solidarity with the people of Cuba who have endured harsh conditions due to the illegal economic blockade imposed on their country. We, once again call for the unconditional lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

The attainment of self-determination of peoples living under foreign occupation is one of the principles that this Organization was founded upon. In this regard, we reaffirm our solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, and call for the implementation of the UN Settlement Plan for Western Sahara.

Similarly, we call for the implementation of relevant UN Resolutions on Palestine.

**Namibia condemns the use of chemical weapons against the civilian population in Syria, as confirmed by UN inspectors. Namibia welcomes the agreement reached by the Russian Federation and the United States to place Syrian chemical weapons under the control of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). We also support the efforts of the Joint Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General and the League of Arab States to help the Syrian parties find a peaceful solution to the conflict.**

**Mr. President,**

**The process of the reform of the United Nations system, especially the Security Council must be accelerated in order to make it representative and democratic.**

**This Session presents an historic opportunity for the international community to take concrete steps to eradicate poverty and enhance international peace and security in order to create a world free of want as envisaged in the Millennium Development Goals. Let us summon the necessary political will to act now!**

**Mr. President, I congratulate you on your election as President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly and assure you of the full support of my delegation.**

**I thank you.**