

# Republic of Namibia



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT THE 77<sup>th</sup>  
SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 NEW YORK**

**(Check Against Delivery)**

**Mr. President,**

**Your Excellencies, Heads of State and  
Government,**

**Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the  
United Nations,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Namibia congratulates H.E Csaba Kőrösi on  
your election as President of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session  
of this august Assembly. Please be assured of  
Namibia's full support as you provide**

**leadership during your tenure. Allow me to also extend appreciation to your predecessor H.E Abdullah Shahid for his sterling stewardship as President of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.**

**Mr. President,**

**Since attaining our political independence, 32 years ago, we are proud of the work we have undertaken towards the second phase of our struggle for economic independence. During this period we have built a strong foundation**

**for our Governance Architecture with emphasis on strengthening processes, systems and institutions. Given these advances in Effective Governance, we are optimistic in our quest to deal with the triple challenges of inequality, unemployment and poverty. Our impact plan, the Harambee Prosperity Plan II, which is accelerating the implementation of the National Development Plans is fastracking our efforts towards Vision 2030.**

**Since my term of office is coming to an end on 20 March 2025 - as a nation country with a**

**Constitution that binds the Head of State to two term-limits, we have set in motion a process for an orderly succession to continue with our peaceful development. The Ruling SWAPO Party, of which I am the Head is currently conducting primaries. There is a real possibility that the next candidate of the SWAPO Party for the National Presidential elections will be a woman or a young male, of whom the male is from a generation that was not in exile. The presence of women in the line of succession is a demonstration of the strides we have made in gender equality, with women representation**

**at over 40% in the National Assembly. Moreover, 90% of our banks are helmed by women.**

**Namibia is a child of international solidarity, midwived by the United Nations. Therefore, we are convinced about solidarity and partnership as critical enablers of our developmental aspirations.**

**Allow me at this juncture to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive Report on Our Common Agenda, which carries**

**clear recommendations on how to advance the SDGs and all existing global agreements through multilateralism, with the UN at the center of our efforts. I commend the Secretary General, for his visionary leadership in proposing that we should meet in a Summit of the Future to reflect on challenges and opportunities that await current and future generations. Namibia supports the convening of this important Summit at the earliest opportune time.**

**Over the past few months, it has been encouraging to note the concerted efforts to shed a spotlight on Transforming Education and advancing SDG 4. Education is a sector that Namibia has consistently been prioritising through the allocation of resources (both human and financial) and the consistent prioritisation of policy development. In the context of the recently concluded Transformation of Education Summit, Namibia commits to transformative leadership, ensuring access to inclusive digital technologies and developing a strategy for**



**innovative financing and resource mobilisation.**

**In Namibia, the education sector receives the largest share of budgetary support, equivalent to 8% of GDP and almost a quarter of the total national budget. The Namibian Government offers free primary and secondary education, which demonstrates our commitment to prioritizing and expanding access to education for all.**

**Furthermore, we are proud of the recent landing of the Google Equiano subsea cable which lends itself greatly to changing Namibia's digital transformation landscape and narrowing our digital divide, in line with our commitment to leveraging the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. In Namibia, we have set up the Fourth Industrial Revolution Task Force, which recently made recommendations as to how Namibia can strengthen domestic capabilities to derive optimal gains from the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. In line with the recommendations of the Task Force, the**

**Government is currently developing a consolidated national 4IR strategy to provide overarching direction and multi-sectoral planning. The strategy will prioritize education reform to close the 4IR skills gap, cybersecurity and the expansion of ICT infrastructure and services.**

**Mr. President,**

**Global debt is at an unprecedented level and interest rates are rising. This reality limits our**

**fiscal space. As we talk about our collective aspirations, we should remain acutely aware of the vulnerabilities facing developing countries. Namibia's classification as an Upper Middle-Income Country, presents challenges with regards to mobilizing resources to finance our development goals. As I have been saying, taking our GDP and dividing it by our small population, thus deriving a high per capita income is without doubt a flawed formula that requires urgent consideration. The formula does not take into account the vast income disparities between the wealthy white and the**

**poor black, which is a consequence of 100 years of colonialism and Apartheid occupation. However, I am pleased to hear that a number of developing and developed countries are in agreement with this unfair classification, which denies countries like Namibia access to soft loans and grants, which are necessary to fight inequality and to lift many out of poverty.**

**The choice of the theme for this Session “Solutions through solidarity, sustainability and science” calls on us to deal with the issues that affect us all. Therefore, I am confident**

**that the unfair classification of countries like Namibia as upper middle-income countries will enjoy priority.**

**Mr. President,**

**Over the past few months, we have witnessed stark geopolitical tensions, a reminder of the fragility of our world order. Threats to peace and security come at a great cost to the men, women and children trapped in such situations. The Russia-Ukraine conflict is now in its 7<sup>th</sup> month, with serious consequences for food and energy supply chains. Namibia believes that dialogue is the condition sine qua**

**non for the peaceful resolution of any conflict. Our United Nations was created for the maintenance of peace and security, and should lead a peaceful resolution in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.**

**Namibia, as a member of the AU Peace and Security Council and Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation; continues to demonstrate its commitment to regional and continental stability by advocating for the advancement of infrastructure for peace, democracy and the protection of human rights. In this regard as**

**the new Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation, I am calling for peaceful General Elections in the Kingdom of Lesotho on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. SADC is also seized with the developments in the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Republic of Mozambique. In that vein, I have commenced a process of dialogue with the leaders of Eswatini, Lesotho and Mozambique in order to ensure the successful implementation of SADC decisions, for peace and stability to prevail in our region.**



**I always say inclusivity spells harmony and exclusivity spells conflict. Africa is a continent of 1.2 Billion citizens and the exclusion of Africa from the Security Council is an injustice. For as long as the Council fails to reflect in stature and composition, current global realities, it will not be able to adequately address global concerns. We therefore reiterate our call for the reform of the Security Council, in line with the Common African Position.**

**Mr President,**

**Self-determination is a human right. The continued injustices meted out against the people of Palestine are a reminder of the urgent need to start implementing the two-state solution as the only viable alternative that can end inequality and bring peace to both the peoples of Palestine, Israel and indeed the region. In the same vein, the lack of progress in implementing UN resolutions to resolve the Question of Western Sahara should be something we bear collective shame for.**

**Namibia pledges unwavering solidarity for nations that continue to bear the heavy brunt**

**of sanctions. Namibia reiterates its longstanding call for the lifting of the unjust embargo against Cuba. I met a 50 year old Cuban man, who has not known any other way of life, apart from sanctions. Please, it is time that the sons and daughters of Cuba are given their right to a decent life, free from from an embargo that denies them their right to develop their own country. Equally, we call on the lifting of sanctions against the Republic of Zimbabwe. Why are the sanctions in place for a country, which is making progress at all levels? President Emmerson Mnangagwa and**

**the people of Zimbabwe have made laudable progress and reforms, which should be given a chance to succeed without the weight of sanctions.**

**Mr President,**

**The health of our planet is in serious jeopardy. Our home is on fire, we are experiencing unprecedented impacts of climate change, including severe droughts and ravaging field fires. Time is a luxury we do not have. We have to act decisively to reduce carbon emissions as our contribution to the preservation of our planet and people.**

**Namibia, like many developing countries, remains vulnerable to the asymmetrical impacts of climate change. Therefore at COP 27, Namibia plans to announce major developments in its ambitions to decarbonize global hard-to-abate sectors through the production of green hydrogen.**

**Furthermore, the first Hydrogen-to-Power project in Africa is expected to be operational by 2024 in the town of Swakopmund, Namibia. This is an example of what is possible when we pull together in the same direction.**

**Our ambitions are not only necessary to mitigate the ravaging impacts of climate change, but are also a critical component of our post-Covid-19 economic recovery. Therefore, Namibia remains ready to work with the international community to ensure the most optimal utilization of its natural resources to combat climate change.**

**A just energy transition is about fair opportunities for developing nations to sustainably access natural endowments at their disposal. Namibia has recently discovered promising deposits of hydrocarbons and is**

**exploring significant deposits of rare earth metals. As part of our goal to ensure sustainable utilization of our natural resources, I recently launched the Welwitschia Fund, our nation's Sovereign Wealth Fund. The Fund is a demonstration of our commitment to fiscal prudence and sustainable resource management for current and future generations.**

**Mr President,**

**In conclusion, today, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2022, we are convening in this chamber on the United Nations International Day of Peace**

**under the theme ""End racism. Build peace".**

**Peace is a wonderful gift, but a fragile one if it is not handled properly. Peace is more than the absence of war; peace is about inclusivity and the development of all nations. Our United Nations as the premier guarantor of multilateralism, is our best bet to ensure a peaceful and prosperous humanity. Namibia will continue to place a high premium on the noble aspirations of the United Nations as a beacon of hope and the equality of all nations. As a beneficiary of successful multilateral efforts, we hold in high regard the convening**



**power of this august Assembly and recommit  
to working with fellow member states to  
change the world for the better.**

**I thank you for your kind attention!**