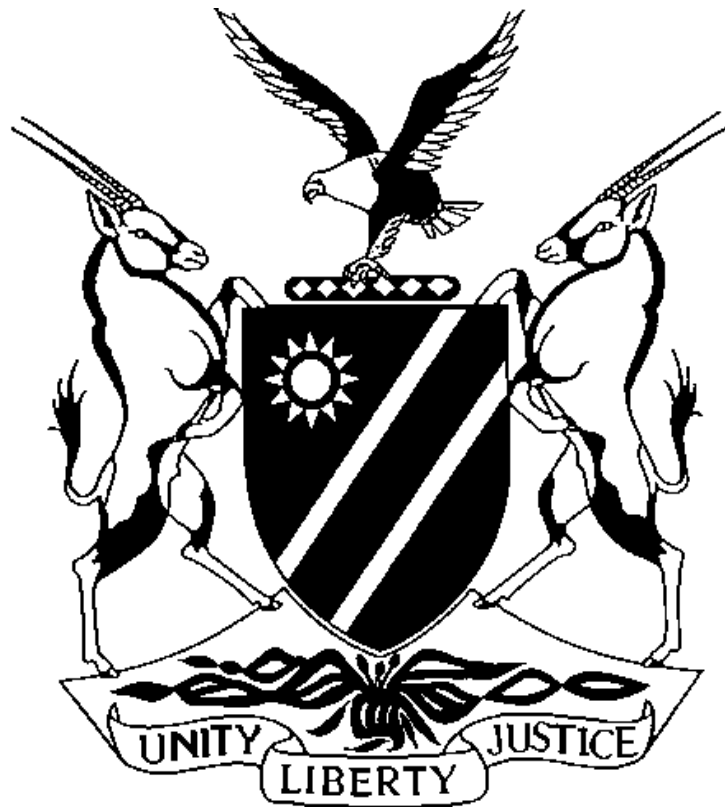


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE
65TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

24 SEPTEMBER 2010

NEW YORK

Check Against Delivery

**Your Excellency Mr. Joseph Deis, President of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
Your Excellency, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the UN,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mr. President, I wish to congratulate you on your election as President of the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly. We are confident that you will discharge the responsibilities of your high office with wisdom. I assure you of Namibia's cooperation and support. I would also like to commend your predecessor, H. E. Dr Ali Treki, for the able manner in which he presided over the 64th Session.

The Secretary General of our organization, H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, and his staff have done a commendable job in overseeing the ongoing efforts to improve the working methods of the organization and better interactions with Member States. We commend you for your dedication and hard work.

Mr President,

The theme for our session this year, titled *Reaffirming the Central Role of the United Nations in Global Governance*, is both timely and appropriate.

In this spirit, Member States should reaffirm the central role of the UN in global governance. Namibia shares the views expressed in the *Outcome Document of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development*.

We believe that because of its universal membership and legitimacy, the UN is well-positioned to participate in the reform processes to improve and strengthen the effective functioning of the international financial system. In this regard, we must reaffirm our commitment to a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system and work together for a speedy and equitable conclusion to the Doha Round.

Mr. President,

Although Namibia is currently classified as a high middle-income country, it still bears the scars of social and economic inequalities inherited from its colonial past.

As a result, we carry the unenviable distinction, as the country with the most unequal distribution of income and economic resources in the world. Our country also faces declining international development assistance due to its classification as a high middle-income country. This has negatively impacted our ability to mobilize resources for national development efforts. In this light, I appeal to the International Financial Institutions to create special mechanisms to enable middle-income countries to access financial resources for development on concessional terms, as called for by the 2008 *Windhoek Declaration on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries*.

Mr. President,

Our recently concluded *High Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals* gave world leaders and other stakeholders a unique opportunity to review progress made towards the achievement of the MDGs and to share valuable experiences. While the review revealed encouraging successes, it is also evident that more work remains to be done. The progress achieved to date should encourage all of us to work relentlessly for the noble and common objectives of achieving all the MDGs.

Mr President,

At the global level, climate change is one of the major challenges facing humanity today. The devastating impact of natural disasters around the world has affected most of our countries. Although Namibia does not significantly contribute to the emission of greenhouse gases, it is one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

In recent years, our country has experienced some of the most severe floods and droughts that destroyed crops, livestock herds and wild animals. Thus, we call upon industrialized countries to take practical steps and demonstrate greater political will to bring about drastic reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases. We also urge them to meaningfully support the efforts of developing countries to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

It is our hope that industrialized countries will meet their commitments to provide adequate resources in line with the undertakings made at Copenhagen in 2009. Namibia looks forward to the successful outcome of the *Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* in Mexico later this year.

Mr. President,

Gender inequality is one of the major challenges impeding the achievement of the MDGs globally. In this light, we welcome the General Assembly resolution on System-wide Coherence and the establishment of *UN Women*, as a dedicated entity to deal with gender-related issues. We hope that this new entity will strengthen the UN's institutional capacity for the support of gender equality and the empowerment of women. My delegation wishes to congratulate Mrs Michelle Bachelet on her appointment as the first head of *UN Women*.

In 2000, while serving as a member of the Security Council, Namibia initiated and introduced a theme on *Women, Peace and Security*, which resulted in the adoption of Resolution 1325.

Our objective was to highlight the plight of women in conflict situations and to recognize the vital role that they can play in peace-making efforts for effective resolution of conflicts. As we commemorate the first decade of this resolution, let us recommit ourselves to the protection of women and girls in conflict situations in all parts of the world.

Mr President,

In August this year, Namibia assumed the Chairmanship of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In this capacity, we will work to promote cooperation with other regional economic communities in Africa, as the building blocks for continental integration. SADC strives for political stability in the region as a prerequisite for sustainable development. In this regard, we have taken proactive steps to resolve the political crisis in Madagascar through the facilitation of former President Joachim Chissano of Mozambique.

Mr President,

The recent African Union Summit held in Kampala in July 2010, focused on maternal, infant and child health and development in Africa. African leaders reaffirmed their commitment to mobilize and devote the resources for the prevention of deaths of women and children from preventable diseases.

Mr. President,

Namibia has consistently urged the international community to fulfill its obligation to help the people Western Sahara in their quest for self-determination.

We, therefore, call for the immediate and unconditional implementation of the UN Settlement Plan for Western Sahara and for the holding of a free and fair referendum, in terms of the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

The people of Palestine have the fundamental rights to self-determination. Namibia is, therefore, deeply concerned about their ongoing suffering and humiliation under Israeli occupation. It is encouraging that direct negotiations have resumed between the parties. We hope that a durable solution will be found without further delay and on the basis of the relevant United Nations Resolutions.

Namibia is also concerned about the prolonged and extraterritorial economic embargo imposed on the people of Cuba. We fully support the decision of the Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Kampala, calling for the removal of that embargo. We believe that the economic blockade is unjustifiable and unfair. It must be lifted.

Similarly, Namibia calls for the lifting of the economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by some western countries. These sanctions have caused enormous suffering, not only to Zimbabwe, but also to other countries in the SADC region.

Mr President,

For many years now, we have been calling for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations System, particularly the Security Council. The process must be finalized to render the Security Council more representative, democratic and accountable. It is unjust that Africa remains the only region of the world without permanent representation on the Security Council. In this connection, Namibia reiterates the *African Common Position on Security Council Reform* as articulated in Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration.

The maintenance of international peace and security is our collective responsibility. Namibia believes that peace, security and stability are the cornerstones for achieving sustainable development. As such, we will continue to participate in UN and AU peacekeeping missions. We urge the international community to supports conflict prevention and peace building efforts around the world.

Recently, State Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty reaffirmed their commitment to nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

We welcome this positive step, in the belief that multilateralism is the most viable option for achieving a world free from the danger of nuclear weapons.

Namibia believes in the effectiveness of collective action under the auspices of the UN, to resolve conflicts by peaceful means and to address the challenges facing the world. My delegation is optimistic that together we can successfully work for the common good of all humanity.

Let us join hands to achieve our common objective of building a better world for the present and future generations.

I thank you.