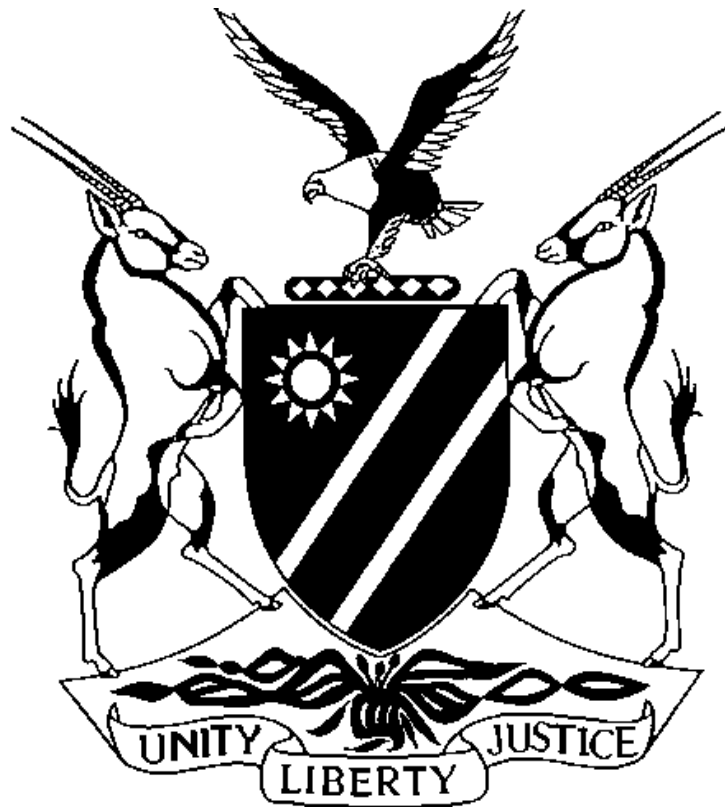


# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
NAMIBIA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH  
LEVEL PLENARY MEETING ON THE  
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**20 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**NEW YORK,**

*Check Against Delivery*

**Esteemed Co-Chairpersons,  
Your Excellencies Heads of State and  
Government,  
Your Excellency Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentleman,**

**I join previous speakers in thanking you, Mr. Secretary General, for convening this High Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals. It is a timely event, coming as it does, ten years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration; and five years before the cut-off date of 2015, by which the MDGs should be achieved.**

**Namibia recalls that historic Millennium Summit of 2000, which our country was honoured to preside over and where a record number of Heads of State and Government pledged to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality; empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health, combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development.**

**In 2005, a High Level Plenary Meeting was held here at the UN Headquarters to review progress Member States were making towards achieving the goals. Today, ten years after the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and five years before the target date, it is time to take stock in order to see how much we have achieved and how much remains to be done.**

**Many developing countries have made encouraging progress towards the achievement of some of the MDGs. However, it is a cause for concern that in many instances, there is uneven progress and unresolved challenges.**

**On our part, Namibia recognized from the outset that achieving the MDGs would be a daunting task. Hence, we decided to integrate the achievement of the goals into our national development programmes and policies, such as the five-year national development plans (NDPs) and Vision 2030. Towards this end, national targets and indicators were also developed to monitor progress towards the achievement of the goals**

**Despite the challenges posed by the global economic, financial, energy and food crises during the last three years; the impact of the HIV/Aids pandemic in our country; and natural disasters such as floods and droughts, progress has been recorded in many areas.**

**For example, we have expanded the delivery of public services and social amenities. Today, the majority of our population has access to clean water; three quarters of the urban population have access to electricity, and many rural communities have been provided with electricity through the rural electrification programme. Progress has, however, been less robust with regard to access to sanitation, particularly in rural areas.**

**Co-Chairpersons,**

**Our government regards the provision of education and training to our people as one of the most important national priorities. For this reason, we have consistently allocated the largest percentage of the national budget to the education sector over the years. Today, our country is on course to achieve the goal of providing universal primary education.**

**I am happy to say that Namibia has achieved and in fact, exceeded gender parity with respect to the enrolment ratios for girls to boys in our schools.**

**Overall, progress in reducing infant mortality rate has been rather slow, while in the area of maternal health, progress has been made with regard to the number of births attended by trained personnel. Maternal mortality currently stands at 449 deaths per 100 000 live births. Our goal is to reduce this figure and move closer towards achieving MDGs 4 and 5.**

**Complications from HIV/Aids have become the main cause of death in our country. However, there has been a significant decline in the number of new infections, as a result of ongoing countrywide public awareness campaigns. Likewise, although, malaria is the third main cause of death in our country, it has been contained through the distribution of free insecticide treated mosquito nets, as well as the spraying of houses in malaria prone areas.**

**As a result of ongoing treatment and awareness campaigns, progress has been recorded with regard to the successful treatment of TB cases, especially during the period from 1996 to 2006.**

**The successes that I have outlined here, give us courage to work harder in order to achieve all the MGs, despite the remaining challenges.**

**Co-Chairpersons,**

**Namibia faces declining international development assistance, due to our country's classification as a middle-income country. In the spirit of the *Windhoek Declaration on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries*, which was adopted in August 2008, I appeal to the Bretton-Woods and other International Financial Institutions to create special mechanisms to enable middle-income countries, such as Namibia to access financial resources for development on concessional terms.**

**Indeed, there is a need to strengthen a global partnership for development, which can promote and facilitate effective international cooperation and to achieve the MDGs. I would like to further urge our development cooperation partners to honour the obligations made at various international fora to provide consistent financial and technical support to developing countries.**

**By working together, we can achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.**

**I thank you.**