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STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE MINISTER MARCO HAUSIKU, MP

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 62nd
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK
3 OCTOBER 2007**

Mr. President,
Your Excellencies,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentleman

Mr. President, allow me to congratulate you on your unanimous election to preside over the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly. We are confident that you will discharge the high responsibility of your Office with the wisdom, skill and experience, you are renowned for.

I also wish to commend Ambassador Sheika Haya Rashed Al Kahlifa who acquitted herself very well in the management of the 61st Session of the General Assembly.

I equally wish to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, for taking up challenging issues facing humanity with courage and determination.

Mr. President,

The world needs a strong United Nations and effective multilateralism that can help humanity to respond timely and effectively to global challenges. Namibia regards climate change as one of the urgent challenges facing humanity today. There is an overwhelming body of scientific evidence pointing to the urgency and gravity of climate change. Climate change is a global issue with serious implications on economic growth, sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Climate change is a present day reality affecting the lives of many people adversely. The international community has to live up to its commitment to provide resources to developing countries to adapt to the effect of climate change. By the same token, compulsory targets must be set for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Namibia is not happy with the rate at which investments are made in the development of renewable and clean energy sources. I would like to call upon the private sector to join hands with governments to develop and apply technologies that can mitigate climate change.

Mr. President,

I would like to assure you of Namibia's commitment to act in consort with other member states to solve this problem through the establishment of concrete and ambitious goals, to be implemented over an agreed period. All countries have a responsibility to act according to their common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Mr. President,

Namibia would like to see the process for the reform of the United Nations expedited. The importance of a stronger and effective United Nations, capable of delivering its mandate cannot be overemphasized.

This would, among others, involve the revitalization and reaffirmation of the authority of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative Organ of the United Nations. Namibia is pleased with the enhanced role of the Economic and Social Council. I believe that it is well positioned to shape the overall development agenda, to deal effectively with economic and social issues, and to mobilize international efforts for the protection of the environment.

We believe that the UN Security Council should be made more democratic and transparent, in its composition and working methods. All Member States, big and small, should have a meaningful stake in it. Namibia appreciates the efforts of the President of the 61st Session of the General Assembly to move the reform process forward. The Security Council has a high significance for Africa, since a major part of its agenda currently concerns peace and security issues in Africa. In 2006, 42 out of a total of 87 resolutions adopted by the Security Council, dealt with Africa. However, Africa has only three non-permanent seats on the Council.

I wish to re-iterate Namibia's strong support, for the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. The need for Africa to be equitably represented in the Council, with all the privileges associated with membership, remains a priority. The challenge in the immediate future would therefore be, to begin a genuine intergovernmental negotiation process, based on the principle of justice and fairness for all.

Mr. President,

The achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed commitments, stand central to global economic stability and prosperity. The highest priority should be collective commitment to sustainable socio-economic development on a global scale. I therefore wish to express my delegation's appreciation for The Millennium Development Goals Report 2007, which we find very useful as a summary of what has been achieved so far. Namibia is concerned, however, that results are slow and uneven. We wish to underline what is stated in the report, "that the MDGs will be attained only, if concerted action is taken immediately, and sustained until 2015".

All stakeholders need to fulfill, in their entirety, the commitments they made in the Millennium Declaration and subsequent pronouncements. It is therefore important that governments and institutions in the economically advanced countries offer genuine partnership, by providing new and additional resources, commensurate with the commitments made in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. President,

Namibia is classified as a lower middle-income country. However, my country ranks number 126 out of 177 countries on the Human Development Index, as it still bears the legacy of the social and economic inequalities inherited from its colonial past. Inequality in the distribution of income and assets in Namibia, is among the highest in the world. Nevertheless, Namibia has made progress in the provision of health, education and other critical services for the majority of the population and we are on course to meet a number of the Millennium Development Goals.

In deed, we face severe difficulty in responding to the combination of the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic, high levels of food insecurity, and poverty at household levels. This situation is compounded by the declining international aid to Namibia due to its classification as lower middle-income country. I once again call upon the international community to increase support to Namibia, including market access and access to financial sources, in the form of targeted Official Development Aid, Concessional loans and Investments flows.

Mr. President,

Namibia applauds the Joint Communiqué agreed to by the UN Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council as a step in the right direction. There is a need for more structured and formalized cooperation between the two bodies, on issues of peace and security in Africa. Such cooperation should also include the areas of financing, logistics, technology and training.

Mr. President,

The right of peoples to self-determination is a fundamental human right, which is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It is sad that seven years into the 21st Century, colonialism is still with us posing a serious challenge to this Organization and humanity at large.

My delegation has raised its voice repeatedly in this august Assembly, in calling for the realization, of the inalienable rights of the people of Western-Sahara to self-determination. The international community has an obligation to assist the people of Western Sahara in their quest for freedom and independence. Namibia therefore calls for the immediate and unconditional implementation of the UN Settlement Plan for Western Sahara, and all resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, with the aim of holding a free and fair referendum in Western Sahara.

Similarly, Namibia is deeply concerned about the continuous suffering of the people of Palestine under Israeli occupation. We wish to reaffirm our full and unequivocal support, for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to return to their land. I reiterate our appeal to the Parties to resume the peace process on the

Mr. President,

My delegation reiterates the call, for an unconditional end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America, against Cuba. We believe that the blockade is not only against international law, but it is also politically unjustifiable and undemocratic. Its extra-territorial nature impedes free trade and economic development. We urge the Government of the United States of America to heed the call of the international community and to implement the resolutions of the General Assembly, that call for an end to the blockade.

Mr. President,

Let us commit ourselves, once again, during this Session of the General Assembly, to address effectively the challenges we face, to save humanity from catastrophes and to make the earth a common place for all, where all will live in peace and security.

I thank you.