



Republic of Namibia

Statement

By

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2011 Operational Activities Segment

**“Operational activities of the United Nations for international development
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Mr. President

I wish to thank you and the entire ECOSOC Bureau for the good arrangements of this operational segment. The panels and topics have been most enriching and assisted us to gain more insight on the importance of United Nations operational activities in meeting the development needs of member States. We also welcome the four reports of the Secretary-General prepared with regard to this important subject.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished delegate of Argentina on behalf of the G 77 and China.

Mr. President

Although Namibia is classified as an upper middle income country, it inherited social and economic inequalities from its apartheid colonial past which the Government is still struggling to overcome. The country is ranked 126th out of 177th on the Human Development Index and inequality in the distribution of income and assets is among the highest in the world.

The Government bases its economic and social policies on the long-term national Vision, according to which Namibia aspires to become an industrialized and developed nation by 2030. Since Independence in 1990, a series of National Development Plans have sought to: revive and sustain economic growth; reduce inequality; create employment; eradicate poverty; promote gender equality and equity; reduce regional inequalities; ensure environmental sustainability; and combat HIV/AIDS. Despite this, however, economic growth remains slow because macro-economic policies are cautious in the light of Namibia's vulnerability to factors such as exchange rate volatility, adverse weather patterns, expected reductions in customs revenues and increasing levels of public debt.

The country programme document of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and UNDP identifies key challenges in meeting Vision 2030 and the Millennium Development Goals, and sets out the key priorities for the United Nations system and its partners.

The proposed programme is based on the UNDP Multi-Year Funding Framework (MYFF) 2004-2007, while the outcomes are linked to the priorities of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2006-2010 for Namibia, and directly address the triple threat. This country programme responds to the objectives set in Namibia's major policies and strategic development frameworks.

Improving capacities at the national, regional and local level for achieving the MDGs and Vision 2030 is *the heart and core* of the programme. The proposed programme has three components, namely: (a) Responding to HIV/AIDS; (b).Reducing human poverty and (c). Energy and environment for sustainable development

Mr. President

Namibia and other developing countries will continue to rely on the United Nations Development Group to assist it in meeting some of its development needs. Namibia attaches great importance to the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system which are their universal, voluntary and grant nature, neutrality and multilateralism. National ownership and national leadership are equally important, and we underscore the fact that there is no "one size fits all" approach to development and that development assistance by the United Nations development system should be able to respond to the varying demands of programme countries and should be in alignment with their national development plans and strategies in accordance with established mandates.

Mr. President

Our delegation is concerned by the decrease in the availability of core funding as compared to non-core funding over the past years. The increased imbalance between core and non-core funding is a worrying trend since non-core funds are characterized by varying degrees of restrictions with regard to their application and use.

Core resources, on the other hand and as compared to non-core contributions, continue to cover a higher share of United Nations institutional costs and programme activities that have a more global and interregional character, hence our call for their increase.

We also call upon the United Nations development system to vigorously pursue the goal of enhanced coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities for development at the country level in order to ensure that they are the preferred partners for attracting increased core and un-earmarked resources.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me reaffirm Namibia's support for and belief in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. We are looking forward to fruitful discussions during the QCPR coming up in 2012 as called for under resolution 62/208 and the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/289 on System-wide Coherence. We also hope that more core funding will be forthcoming to enable developing countries to continue meeting their development needs.

I Thank You!