

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.**

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**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to address this first High Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament and wish to commend your efforts Mr. President, those of your predecessor and indeed all others who contributed to convening this debate. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support as you steer our deliberations.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by His Excellency Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM), and His Excellency Osman Saleh Mohammed, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea on behalf of the African Group, respectively.

Mr President,

We believe that the non-selective implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is key to disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. In this regard, we reiterate our strong commitment to multilateralism.

We also support the noble position adopted by the International Court of Justice in its 1996 Advisory Opinion, that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is contrary to the rules of international law on armed conflicts, and violates the principles and rules of international humanitarian law. In this context, we join the call for the delegitimization of these dreaded weapons.

The belief in military doctrines based on the myth of advancing national security through nuclear deterrence are counter-productive and against the spirit of the Non Proliferation Treaty.

All nuclear weapon states should be obliged to subject their arsenals, facilities and programmes to international scrutiny, verification and IAEA safeguards. There should be no exception. Those who contemplate the development or

production of nuclear weapons should refrain from this dangerous path. Humanity is better off without nuclear weapons.

Mr. President,

The catastrophic events of Hiroshima and Nagasaki sixty-eight years ago will never be forgotten. Therefore, the international community should stand together to ensure that never again should such misery be inflicted on any nation for whatever reason. While nuclear weapons have been reduced since the end of the Cold War, the remaining arsenals have been modernized and pose a greater threat.

As a member of the African Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, Namibia supports and is committed to the establishment of nuclear weapons free zones in all regions of the world. We believe that this constitutes a confidence building measure and an important step in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

It is for this reason that Namibia calls for the holding of the International Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Nuclear Free Zone and all other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, without further delay, as recommended by the 1995 and 2012 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conferences.

The failure to convene this Conference is a source of great disappointment and may undermine the Non Proliferation Treaty regime.

In the pursuit of a nuclear weapons-free world as envisaged by the NPT, no state party is too big to do it alone, and none is too small to make a contribution. Therefore, multilateralism remains central to attaining the goal of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy for the benefit of humanity.

I thank you.