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**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE  
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
BEFORE**

**THE SIXTH COMMITTEE DURING THE**

**77<sup>TH</sup>**

**SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON**

**"THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"**

**(AGENDA ITEM 84)**

**NEW YORK, 10 OCTOBER 2022**

Mr. Chair,

1. Allow me to extend my warm congratulations to you and to all the members of the bureau for your election. Please be assured of the full cooperation of my delegation during your tenure.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group and adds the following remarks in our national capacity.
3. At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General for his report on this Agenda item and in the same vein acknowledge the profound work and role that the United Nations is doing in order to promote the Rule of Law at both national and international levels.

Mr. Chair,

4. Over the past few months, we have witnessed increased geopolitical polarity, a reminder of the fragility of our world order which coupled with the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, offers no reprieve for the most vulnerable, across the world. It is in this context that the importance and relevance of the rule of law is ingrained in us as ~~as~~ the foundation for a fair

and just society. Moreover, it serves as a guarantor of responsible government and of independent and accessible justice which are core components for the maintenance of peace, security and sustainable development.

5. Thus, the Rule of Law, is a huge factor in propelling socio economic development. The rule of law, the administration of justice and protection of civil liberties are anchors that buttress the stability of our Namibian house.
  
6. In strengthening these important Constitutional Principles and improve the overall governance architecture, Namibia introduced a targeted acceleration plan, the Harambee Prosperity Plan II. The Plan prioritises the implementation of policy programs aimed at addressing inequalities and enhancing service delivery, economic recovery and inclusive growth.
  
7. Effective Governance is a core tenet of the Harambee Prosperity Plan II which incorporates the Government's aptitude to coordinate decision-making in a manner that is conducive for participatory democracy, thus improving accountability and transparency. It is our fervent belief that this enhances public participation.

Mr. Chair,

8. In our quest to drive social change and enhance social justice, Namibia has subjected itself to the continental governance self-assessment tool by acceding to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and allowing for objective reviews. This is one of many examples of how Namibia displays her commitment to open governance, reducing corruption and promoting the rule of law
9. Namibia has state institutions which enforce the supremacy of its Constitution and the rule of law. The Executive and the Legislature uphold constitutional provisions, and the Judiciary is free and independent.
10. As such, the Namibian Government remains committed to ensuring access to justice for all, as an independent human right and a crucial means to enforce other substantive rights.
11. Although the costs of litigation is high, there are various means available to less privileged litigants who may apply for legal aid in terms of the Legal Aid Act. Moreover, Namibia has a Legal Assistance Centre which renders assistance to litigants, free of charge in constitutional cases and cases of public interest. The University of Namibia also has a Legal Aid Clinic which renders services free of charge.

12. The aforementioned is in keeping with Article 95 of the Namibian Constitution which provides for the promotion of the welfare of the people. Article 95(h) specifically provides for a legal system seeking to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity by providing free legal aid in defined cases with due regard to the resources of the State.

Mr. Chair,

13. Allow me at this juncture to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive Report on Our Common Agenda, which carries clear recommendations on how to advance the SDGs and all existing global agreements through multilateralism, with the UN at the center of our efforts. I would like to particularly highlight the commitment to a new vision for the rule of law that builds upon SDG 16 and the 2012 Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels.

14. In this regard, the Government of Namibia places strong emphasis on tackling corruption and reiterates its commitment to implementation of a coordinated approach to fight corruption at all levels. Namibia forms part of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) which is a

Regional Body subscribing to global standards to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism and proliferation. Through the concerted efforts of our local Anti-Corruption Commission, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, the Namibian Financial Intelligence Center and the Office of the Prosecutor General, we are putting in place various mechanisms that ensure that cases of corruption are reported, investigated and prosecuted.

15. The Judicial system in Namibia continues to function independently so as to ensure that all perpetrators of corruption are brought to justice, this in turn strengthens the constitutional principles that ensure that the Rule of Law is upheld.

Mr. Chair,

16. To conclude, Namibia continues to sign Bilateral Agreements on Mutual Legal Assistance with various countries to cooperate in fighting trans-national crimes. Namibia ensures that, where there is no such agreement with any member state of the UN, we will, based on the principle of reciprocity provide the necessary assistance in order to ensure that the Principle of the Rule of Law is adhered to and upheld.

I thank you.