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STATEMENT

BY

**THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
DURING THE 80TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON
CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY (AGENDA ITEM 78)**

NEW YORK,

14 OCTOBER 2025

Thank you Mr. Chair,

1. Namibia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Cameroon on behalf of the African Group and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

2. The idea of the prevention and punishment of international crimes resonates deeply with Namibia. Our nation bears the memory of one of the earliest genocides of the twentieth century, committed against the Nama and Ovaherero peoples between 1904 and 1908 under German colonial rule. Our nation also bears the memory of apartheid, one of the 11 distinct crimes against humanity. The lingering effects of these tragedies continue to inform Namibia's moral commitment to justice, reconciliation, and the prevention of atrocities in all their forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chair,

3. Namibia's position is also anchored in the values of the ruling party, the SWAPO Party Manifesto, and our Sixth National Development Plan, both of which reaffirm the centrality of human dignity, equality, and justice as the foundation of our nation's development and international engagement. These instruments remind us that peace and prosperity cannot flourish where historical injustices remain unacknowledged, and that sustainable development must be grounded in accountability, human rights, and the rule of law.
4. To that end, Namibia welcomes the historic African Union Assembly Decision 934 [AU/Dec. 934 (XXXVIII)], which qualifies slavery, deportation, and colonization as crimes against humanity and genocide against the African peoples. This decision reflects Africa's collective resolve to advance recognition, accountability, and reparative justice.

5. Therefore, Namibia echoes the African Group's call for an inclusive, transparent, and consensus-driven process that reflects the realities and aspirations of all regions, particularly those that have endured the legacy of slavery, colonization, and racial subjugation. We reiterate that reaching a consensus on issues to be included or excluded in the draft articles should be the basis for us to advance progress, as without reaching consensus, agreements suffer credibility, and as such, weaken their implementation.
6. A fair process must also address new and emerging challenges, including the misuse of modern technologies in ways that could give rise to mass human victimisation. We also invite the Commission to consider addressing unilateral coercive measures. Unilateral coercive measures have been proven to adversely impact the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly the rights of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including food and medical care, housing and necessary social services.

7. We thus wish to emphasise that the future Convention must remain consistent with the Charter of the United Nations, by retaining the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. To that end, Namibia supports the view that national jurisdictions should retain primacy in the prosecution of crimes against humanity, supported by international cooperation that respects the principle of complementarity and the rules of international law, including immunities of State officials.
8. While we welcome the effort to codify an international instrument on crimes against humanity, my Delegation is concerned by the inconsistency in the application of justice. Case in point is the codification of an instrument to suppress and punish apartheid as a crime against humanity in 1973. However, with apartheid rule only ending in 1990 in Namibia and in 1994 in South Africa, there have been only two indictments and no single

conviction. Therefore, as we move towards the forthcoming preparatory meetings and the 2028 Conference, we should not only be hopeful to have an international instrument but also be concerned with its application.

Mr. Chair,

9. As we welcome the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, we hope that the people of Palestine not only receive reprieve from wanton genocide committed against their population, but also receive justice through holding the perpetrators accountable. As a nation that fought for its liberation and the quest for dignity, Namibia remains steadfast in its conviction that “never again should humanity witness such violations unchecked.”

I thank you, Chair.