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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK  
28 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Mr. President,  
Your Excellencies,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your unanimous election to preside over the 64<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. We are confident that you will discharge the responsibilities of your Office with honor and dignity given your track record and vast experience. I wish to assure you of Namibia's support and cooperation to ensure that your tenure of Office is crown with success.

In the same vein, I wish to commend H.E. Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann for the able manner in which he presided over the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of this august Assembly.

I equally wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his tireless efforts in leading our Organization to respond effectively to a large number of challenging and pressing issues facing humanity.

Mr. President,

We are meeting today at a very challenging time. The impact of the world financial and economic crisis is very severe on our countries and economies. This crisis is a major concern which requires concerted efforts to search for effective methods of coping with it, in order to mitigate its impact and to achieve sustainable growth and development. This crisis is taking its toll on every aspect of our economic and social life. The progress that we have made in the fight against poverty, hunger and diseases, as well as in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), are under threat.

Mr. President,

The financial crisis came in the middle of the food and energy crisis. Skyrocketing prices of basic foodstuffs, though said to have stabilized now, have left many households unable to place food on the table. Net food importing countries, like Namibia, had to divert resources from development to emergency relief while the importation of high priced food destabilized

our balance of payments and state revenues. The situation was also worsened by high fuel prices. Oil-importing developing countries, like ours, have been negatively affected by the ever-increasing oil prices, which have also led to price increases in other sectors, as suppliers of goods and services raise prices to make up for production and transportation costs. The financial and economic crisis, coupled with the food and energy crisis, has plunged the world into a global recession.

The combination of these crises with climate change and its adverse impact on sustainable development is cause for great concern. Namibia, like many other developing countries, is an insignificant contributor to the emissions of greenhouse gases. Yet, our country is one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. I therefore, call upon major emitters to not only make drastic reductions in their greenhouse gas emissions, but also to avail technology and financial resources to support the efforts of developing countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The Government of the Republic of Namibia fully supports the efforts of the Secretary-General in mobilizing political will to ensure a good and legally binding agreement on climate change in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Mr. President,

Namibia is one of the countries with the highest socio-economic inequality in the world because of its colonial past. Nevertheless, the country 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.

However, we face severe difficulties in responding to the combination of devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic, high levels of food insecurity and poverty. I once again call upon the international community to increase support to our national programmes towards sustainable economic and social development through measures such as market access and access to financial resources, in the form of Concessional loans and Foreign Direct Investment flows.

Mr. President,

The need for a strong and effective United Nations cannot be overemphasized. The process for the reform of the Organization should be expedited in order to deliver on its promises in the maintenance of international peace and security, observation of human rights, social and economic developments and the protection of the environment.

There is an urgent need to reform the Security Council to make it more representative, democratic and accountable. Is it not an anomaly and unjust that Africa remains the only region without a permanent representation on the Security Council? This does not reflect the Continent's vital role in the maintenance of global peace and security. The need for Africa to be

equitably represented in the Council, with all the privileges associated with membership, remains our priority. In this regard Namibia stands by the Common African position on the reform of the United Nations as articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

Mr. President,

Namibia welcomes the Joint Communiqué on strengthening the AU capacity in peacekeeping operations, as 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, transfer of technology and training. Furthermore, there is a need for the UN to support the AU principle positions of not recognizing governments that come to power through military coups. Namibia calls upon the UN General Assembly to urgently pass a resolution prohibiting the participation of such governments in the activities of all the UN institutions.

Mr. President,

The right of all people to self-determination is a fundamental human right, which is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It is deplorable that

almost ten years into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, colonialism still remains an issue that this Organization has to deal with.

My delegation has raised its voice repeatedly in this august Assembly, 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 people of Palestine to self-determination, including the return to their land.

I wish to once again call upon the Parties to resume the peace process on the basis of all relevant United Nations resolutions .

Mr. President,

My delegation wish to reiterate its long held position on the unilateral economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed against Cuba. We

believe that the blockade constitutes a violation of international law and the rights of the people of Cuba. Its extra-territorial nature impedes free trade and economic development. Furthermore, it undermines the efforts of the international community to attain the internationally agreed development goals as it affects that country's economy adversely and subjects its people to untold pain and suffering. We urge the government of the United States of America to heed the call of the international community and implement the resolutions of the General Assembly that call for an end to the blockade.

Namibia wishes to reaffirm its solidarity and support to Cuba's call for the immediate release of the Five Cuban nationals detained in the US.

Mr. President,

I would like to seize this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to those governments and international organizations who responded timely to our appeal for support and assistance following the devastating floods that my country experienced during the past two years. This assistance has greatly contributed to the alleviation of the suffering of those in the affected areas.

Finally, I wish to call upon all member states of the United Nations, in keeping with their responsibilities and obligations under the UN Charter, to fully address the challenges facing humanity today in order to make the world a better place for all, a place where we will all live together in peace and security and true justice.

I thank you.