

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY H.E. HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON
THE OCASSION OF THE 69th OF THE UN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

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**(Check Against Delivery)*

**Mr. President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Secretary-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mr. President,

I am proud to see you, a distinguished son of Africa presiding over the 69th Session of the General Assembly. I extend warm congratulations to you on your election. I pay tribute to the President of the previous Session for his sterling leadership.

Mr. President,

This Session is taking place at a challenging time on the global stage. Several African countries are confronted by an unprecedented outbreak of the deadly Ebola disease; the 200 girls abducted in Nigeria by Boko Haram are yet to be found; and the indiscriminate bombardment of Gaza, by Israel, ended only 45 days ago.

At the same time, terrorist groups continue to disrupt peace and stability through kidnappings and gruesome executions of innocent and helpless people.

These challenges are not insurmountable. They demand steadfastness and unity in confronting and overcoming them. They demand that we resolutely reaffirm our faith and move forward guided by the enduring values and principles of the UN Charter and all that it stands for. These values should guide our discussions during this Session and our theme: ***“Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda”***.

This theme presents an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on the successes achieved and the challenges encountered in the implementation of the ambitious targets set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Creating better world through inclusive development, greater freedom from want, better security and increased prosperity, especially in developing countries are some of the priorities we agreed to achieve fourteen years ago.

In Namibia, the implementation of MDGs has brought about many positive impacts. The percentage of our people living in extreme poverty has been reduced by more than half. Primary school enrolment, has reached 100 percent. Health care delivery, has reached many communities, where there was none. The rates of new HIV infection, cases have stabilized. Coverage of ARV treatment has reached 85 per cent and PMTCT now stands at 90 per. We are moving closer to eliminating malaria as a public health threat, and the provision of clean drinking water and sanitation, have also been expanded.

Notable successes have also been achieved at global level. The living conditions of millions of people have been improved, especially in developing countries. Therefore, we have a strong foundation to realize the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In this context, urgent action, should be taken, to meet the basic needs of all human beings and the protection of the natural environment, on which we all depend for our livelihoods.

I believe that we should spare, neither efforts, nor resources, in order to address the root causes of social strife, poverty and political conflicts in our societies, holistically.

Mr President,

Developing countries, particularly African and Island States, continue to bear the brunt of the adverse effects of climate change. Floods, droughts and soil erosion have become severe, prolonged and more frequent. Namibia, therefore, calls for the implementation of the Plan of Action and the Namib Declaration, adopted at 2013 Conference of Parties of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP11) in Windhoek.

We applaud the Secretary General for hosting the Climate Change Summit, during this Session of the General Assembly. Its outcome should complement the negotiations within UN Framework Convention and Climate Change, towards a meaningful and co-ordinated global agreement, in 2015.

Going forward, our discussions and interactions should be guided by the principles articulated in the Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of Rio +20, titled the *Future We Want*, as well as the outcomes of the major UN conferences and summits on economic, social and environmental matters. It is vital to ensure that, the concerns articulated in the African Common Position, are fully integrated in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

As we prepare for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we must demonstrate the necessary political will, and create strong global partnerships to realize our shared goals. Furthermore, we should join hands to ensure effective mobilization and efficient utilization of public and private sector resources both at domestic and international levels.

Mr President,

Ongoing efforts to reform the UN System, particularly the Security Council, must be concluded without further delay, in order to reflect the contemporary geo-political realities.

We remain concerned about the political instability and armed conflicts in South Sudan, Somalia, Mali and the Central African Republic (CAR). However, the success achieved by the Government of the DRC, MONUSCO and the SADC Intervention Brigade in neutralizing the negative forces in the eastern part of the DRC is encouraging. In order to further consolidate peace, the voluntary disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration programme of the negative forces, must be implemented fully.

Mr President,

Namibia supports the participation of women in peace-keeping and peace-building operations around the world. In this context, we call for the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Presently, Namibia has deployed one of the largest female police contingents to the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

Mr President,

Namibia continues to call for the lifting of the economic embargo against Cuba. The embargo is contrary to international efforts to reduce poverty and achieve MDGs targets in UN member states. The listing of Cuba as a state sponsor of international terrorism is not justifiable and should not be accepted.

We call for the full implementation of all relevant UN resolutions on Western Sahara and Palestine. The international community must fulfill its obligations and assist the people of Western Sahara and Palestine realize their inalienable rights to self-determination.

Namibia condemns the abduction of more than 200 girls and other innocent people by Boko Haram in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We call for their immediate and unconditional release.

We support international efforts, to combat Ebola disease, in some African countries. Towards this end, Namibia has contributed an amount of N\$11 million to the fight against the deadly epidemic.

Mr President,

As prescribed by the Namibian Constitution, I have the honour, to inform Your Excellencies that, my term of Office as President, will come to an end early next year. Therefore, this is the last time that, I address the General Assembly as President of Namibia. I would like to thank Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government, for the excellent co-operation that, you have rendered to me and my country during my tenure of office. I trust that you will extend the same cooperation to my successor.

Mr President,

Finally, let us reaffirm our collective political commitment to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs, as we move towards the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I thank you.