



**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

STATEMENT BY HON. MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND
TOURISM OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA REV. WILLEM
KONJORE AT THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF
THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

15 November 2006
Nairobi, KENYA
Check against delivery

President of COP 12 and COP-MOP 2, Hon. Minister Kibwana,
UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Mr. Yvo de Boer,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Namibia would like to extend its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Kenya for welcoming us to their beautiful country and the impeccable organization of this conference. We are indeed honored to be here.
2. Mr. President, the effect of Climate Change will drastically increase the vulnerability of people within Southern Africa and Namibia which is already compounded by the threats of desertification.
3. Namibia, as one of the most arid countries in sub-Saharan Africa, does attach a great importance and significance to this Convention on Climate Change. We are faced with great challenges; our country is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, specifically our coastal areas coupled with our continuous dependency on our fragile ecosystem and related services, which leans towards a subsistence economy that relies heavily on subsistence agriculture and livestock production systems. In order for our Government and the entire nation to prepare and limit potential impacts of the predicted climate change scenarios, we would like to engage all partners to come up with accelerated and quick-win win approaches in the areas of climate change adaptation; including both institutional adaptation and adaptive management capacity.

4. Namibia aims to address the threat of climate change by pursuing a path of sustainable development suited to Namibia's variable and fragile environment. With the kind financial contribution from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Namibia has embarked on a number of programmes to address the issue of climate change:
 - 4.1 Namibia has launched its Second National Communication (SNC) Project to address the potential impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable sectors, the national capacity for addressing climate change, and increase the Namibian public's knowledge and awareness of potential climate change impacts;
 - 4.2 Namibia has initiated an Adaptation project that will contribute to the goal of enhancing adaptive capacity to climate change in agricultural and pastoral systems in several drought-prone constituencies in the North-Central regions of Namibia. The outcomes will include the adaptation measures by rural communities in agricultural production and the integration of climate change through the Country Pilot Partnership (CPP) for Integrated Sustainable Land Management, a programme aimed at reducing and reversing the process of land degradation in Namibia and thus delivering significant benefits to local communities;
 - 4.3 We have established a National Renewable Energy programme which aims to promote the use of renewable energy throughout rural Namibia. This programme is supported by the GEF and the private sector within Namibia.

5. Mr. President, our national Renewable Energy Policy is in place. Namibia is sincerely extending its invitation to all interested parties and companies to explore renewable energy opportunities within Namibia. The country enjoys more than 300 days of complete sunshine, thus has huge comparative advantage for renewable energy exploitation for both solar and wind energy. The country is ideally located for trials and experimentations for large-scale renewable energy generation, especially solar energy.
6. Namibia welcomes the initiative of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, and has recently embarked on setting up a Designated National Authority (DNA). A number of potential projects have been proposed for this initiative. We believe that CDM is an important economic tool for sustainable development and the achievement of our national development goals.
7. Mr. President, Namibia welcomes the progress on the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) to finance projects relating to adaptation and additional concerns regarding climate change in many countries. We note with appreciation the contribution made by the international community, the GEF and other partners in mobilizing resources to implement the SCCF. However, we express our deep concern regarding the 'co-financing sliding scale', which will be detrimental to poor countries who want to implement large-scale projects. We therefore, urge our developed country parties, multi-national partners and the GEF to mobilize additional resources for the SCCF and to do away with this co-financing mechanism, to enable developing country parties to effectively carry-out their mandates and establish viable climate change programmes.

8. Mr. President, Namibia endorses the efforts by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG 2) on the on-going Post-Kyoto consultations. It is our belief that at the end of its consultations, the AWG 2 will provide clear guidelines and recommendations to govern the reduction of emissions from major Greenhouse gas emitters.

9. In conclusion, Mr. President, Namibia would like to urge all Parties to seriously study and make use of the recently published Stern Review on the economic impacts of climate change and its effects on the global economic production on medium to long-term. Namibia is concerned about the effects of climate change on its economy, and people and urges all parties to accelerate the full implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention.

I thank you