

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY H.E. HIFIKEPUYE POHAMBWA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT
THE UN HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE RULE
OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

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**Check Against Delivery.*

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my distinct honour and pleasure to address this High-Level Meeting on the important subject of the *Rule of Law at National and International Levels*. The Republic of Namibia is founded upon the principles of democracy, the rule of law and justice for all. Our constitution contains a Bill of Rights, which provides for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. All organs of State are enjoined to uphold, respect, protect and guarantee these rights and freedoms.

In keeping with its commitment to the rule of law and multilateralism, our country has acceded to the relevant International Treaties and Conventions, which promote the rule of law. We have also joined sub-regional, regional and international organisations such as the Southern African Development Community, the African Union and the United Nations in order to help foster a system of international governance based on respect for the sovereign equality of States, territorial integrity and other principles related to the peaceful co-existence among States, based on the purposes and ideals of the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

This High-Level meeting is convened to reaffirm, amongst other things, our commitment to the principle of and respect for the rule of law. While the United Nations Charter assigns the Security Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, it has become clear that, with the passage of time, the current composition and structure of the Security Council is unrepresentative and undemocratic. It is for this reason, that we re-iterate our call for the comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make it more democratic, transparent and to better represent and serve the whole of humanity.

Furthermore, we encourage the Security Council to always coordinate with regional organizations in the fulfillment of its mandate, including conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and sustainable peace building.

Mr. President,

We welcome the Report of the Secretary-General and take note of the proposal for the General Assembly to adopt a Programme of Action for the rule of law and look forward to discussing the mechanisms to enhance dialogue on the rule of law.

Mr. President,

The UN came into being in order to protect humanity from the scourge of war. The only way this noble goal can be achieved is when all member states of the UN, refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner that is inconsistent with the purposes and principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, respect for human rights, and indeed, respect for equal rights of all without distinction as to race, language, religion, cultural or social character. These are our common obligations under the Charter of this organization.

It is also our duty to ensure that we avoid the perception that certain international institutions are used to advance the interests of certain member states, at the disadvantage of others.

In this regard, the operations of institutions such as the International Criminal Court (ICC) should, at all times, be guided by fairness and objective assessment to ensure justice. We should avoid the temptation of subjecting this institution to self-serving political considerations and influences.

Mr. President,

Let me, once again, reiterate, that we believe strongly that the application and practice of the rule of law, especially at international level will only have true meaning within the spirit of the UN Charter, if it is based on the principle of sovereign equality of all states, big and small.

I thank you.