

# **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, 2021 UNITED  
NATIONS FOOD SYSTEM SUMMIT**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

## **Mr. President**

Namibia wishes to thank the UN Secretary-General for convening the Food System Summit. This Summit brings together a diversity of stakeholders to share ideas, solutions, action plans and forge partnerships that aim to build a future that is secure, safe and fair for all.

In order to support post Covid-19 recovery while simultaneously preserving our food systems, it is crucial that we protect our environments, including oceans by enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources. This means implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In this regard, developing countries such as Namibia will need to mobilize resources from a variety of sources including through enhanced development cooperation in order to provide adequate and predictable means of financial support.

## **Mr. President**

As the impact of climate change becomes more profound, which among others includes severe periods of drought, food production systems are seriously affected especially in developing countries.

Thus, designing and implementing resilient agricultural practices to increase productivity and production are inevitable. However, we require the support of the international community in order to have access to appropriate new technology.

Preserving food systems should also include restoring degraded land and combatting desertification. This is pertinent since land restoration does not only promote sustainable use of land but also avails more productive land for food production.

### **Mr. President**

Agricultural productivity and income cannot be increased without equal access to land. To this extent, the Namibian Government continues to prioritize land redistribution. To date, many Namibians have been resettled as part of our strategy to correct the ills of the past when many of our citizens were not only excluded from participating in economic activities but also dispossessed of their land. However, this alone is not enough. Capacity building, financial support and opportunities for value addition are needed for all countries to realize their agricultural potential.

At this juncture, when humanity faces the monumental challenges of disease, poverty and climate change, only unity of purpose will

enable us to prevail. As our most reliable source of hope for a peaceful, secure and safe world, the United Nations offers us a strategic platform to ensure that we are able to provide peace for all, safety for all and food for all. Let us seize this moment to hold hands and pull in the same direction to leave a positive and long-lasting impact on humanity.

**I thank you**