



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

**on the occasion of the General Debate of
the High-Level Segment of the High-Level Political Forum
on sustainable development under the auspices of
ECOSOC**

THEME:

**Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full
implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels**

by

**Hon. Obeth Mbuipaha Kandjoze,
Director General
of National Planning Commission**

JULY 18th, 2023

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Madam President

1. Allow me to commend you for organizing this important debate on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and scaling up of action and momentum, particularly in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and halfway to the deadline for the 2030 Agenda. Indeed, Namibia associates herself with the Statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 plus China.
2. Namibia remains concerned about the alarming findings of the Secretary-General's report on the SDGs implementation progress with only 12 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal targets being on track, while half of the world is being left behind, and the number of people living in extreme poverty has increased. This is a wake-up call to all of us to take bold actions to efficiently address the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, and the triple crisis of climate, biodiversity, and pollution.
3. Upon the adoption of the SDGs in September 2015 by the international community, Namibia swiftly resolved to domesticate the implementation of the SDGs and other development frameworks such as the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan of Southern African Development Community (SADC) into its national development plans in 2016.

Madam President,

4. While there had been some progress towards the implementation of the SDGs worldwide, the global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly slowed down the rate of achievement. On SDG indicators that are feasible to be evaluated for trends in Namibia, positive trends are reported under Goal 1 on Poverty Eradication, Goal 2 on Zero Hunger, Goal 5 on Gender Equality, and Goal 15 on Life on Land, while negative growth prevails for Goal 8 on Economic Growth.
5. Namibia reiterates that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and its full implementation is critical for the implementation of the SDGs. The mobilization of the required resources faces enormous challenges such as the high cost of debt and risks of debt distress, rising global interest rates, and tightened financial conditions that gravely affect fragile economies, including those of the middle-income countries, and limit our fiscal space.

Madame President,

6. Worryingly, Namibia's classification as an upper-Middle-Income-Country presents challenges with regards to mobilizing resources to finance developmental goals, particularly accessing much-needed soft loans and grants. This classification places us at a disadvantage as it fails to account for historic injustices that have resulted in highly skewed income distribution. To this end, Namibia calls for the establishment of measures that go beyond GDP measurement basis by considering multidimensional vulnerabilities so as to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation and leave no one behind.
7. With this in mind, Namibia considers the reform of the global financial architecture, especially the IMF and the World Bank, as urgent and fair. We need to enhance the participation of developing countries at the table of international economic decision-making, norm-setting and global economic governance to adapt to the ever-changing global economy.
8. The negative effects of climate change compounded with other challenges threaten the livelihoods and the very survival of many developing countries. Denying it means sleepwalking into a disaster written in front of our eyes in capital letters. We firmly believe that it is high time to halve greenhouse gas emissions and meet climate financing commitments, including the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.
9. In the same vein, securing a low-carbon future through green transition is a matter of justice, as poor people and countries are the most affected by climate change. The Namibian world-class potential for renewable energy through solar and wind, preconditions for green hydrogen production, is in a state of flux and undergoing progressive liberalization. Going forward, the Namibian Government has set itself the task of creating an enabling environment in which private sector players increasingly participate in the energy market. This is hoped to usher in new forms of electricity generation and distribution models.

Madame President,

10. In closing, Namibia remains committed to the realization of the SDGs and will continue to invest resources to ensure the effective implementation of national developmental programmes that will enable the attainment of the SDGs. We will continue our pursuit of the actualising both the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 through the crafting and implementation of our Sixth National Development Plan.
11. I thank you!