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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

AT

**THE 67TH SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK
25 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Your Excellency, Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly,
Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the UN,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

I extend warm congratulations to you and your country Serbia, on your election as President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly. My delegation is confident that under your leadership, this Session will address all burning issues on its agenda. I assure you of my delegation's cooperation and support. I also wish to thank your predecessor for presiding over the 66th Session of the General Assembly.

Similarly, I wish to congratulate H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon on assuming his second mandate as Secretary-General of the United Nations at the beginning of this year.

Mr. President,

The unresolved conflicts around the world demand commitment and resolve from us all to find durable solutions.

I, therefore, commend you for choosing the theme for debate at this Session, which is: *Bringing About adjustment or Settlement of International Disputes or Situations by Peaceful Means*. Namibia firmly believes that, if we *all* dedicate ourselves to finding lasting solutions to conflicts by peaceful means, our collective efforts will be successful. There is no better way to achieve peace, than by upholding the cardinal principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes, as provided for under Chapter 6 of the UN Charter.

In this regard, we should renew the original commitment to peace and progress as essential values of the United Nations. Namibia believes that respect for sovereign equality of states, territorial integrity and independence constitute the pillars of international law, and, indeed, the bedrock of peaceful relations among Nations. A violation of any of these principles poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

Mr. President,

Regional and sub-regional organizations are important partners in solving conflicts in the affected areas throughout the world. Their contribution to conflict resolution is provided for under the UN Charter.

There is thus, a compelling need for the United Nations, to take into account the views of regional organizations in the areas of mediation and peacemaking. These institutions should be fully supported in finding lasting solutions to violent conflicts around the world.

In Africa, the AU Peace and Security Council has, since its inception, cooperated with the United Nations Security Council, towards these shared goals of conflict resolution.

Similarly, the SADC sub-region has put initiatives in place to resolve political conflicts in the region through mediation. However, we are concerned about the deteriorating security situation in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. We, therefore, urge the international community to support the regional initiative aimed at resolving this conflict and to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced persons. We call on all neighboring countries to work together with Congolese authorities to help resolve this conflict and ensure that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRC is not violated.

In Madagascar, we urge the Malagasy political actors to expedite the full implementation of the road map leading to the holding of free, fair, inclusive and credible elections.

With regard to Sudan and South Sudan, Namibia calls on the two countries to resolve all outstanding issues peacefully. In the Darfur region of Sudan we urge the Government and other parties concerned to find a negotiated peaceful solution to the conflict.

We denounce the unconstitutional changes of Government in Mali and Guinea-Bissau, which took place in March this year. Equally, Namibia resolutely rejects the secessionist attempts in northern Mali and the destruction of ancient shrines in Timbuktu. We wish to commend the role played by ECOWAS in helping to resolve the conflicts in these two countries and, at the same time, urge the international community to provide support and assistance to ECOWAS.

Mr. President,

Namibia welcomes the recent positive political developments in Somalia, including the election of H.E. Mr Hassan Sheik Mohamoud as President of Somalia.

I congratulate him and wish him well in the noble task of bringing normalcy and stability to that sister country. The international community should continue to support the people of Somalia, as they embark upon the path to rebuild their country.

Mr. President,

For many decades, the people of Western Sahara have been denied their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. Namibia reiterates its call for the immediate and unconditional implementation of the UN Settlement Plan leading to the holding of a free and fair referendum in Western Sahara.

Equally, we wish to reaffirm our unequivocal support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and national independence based on the relevant UN Resolutions.

Mr. President,

Each year during the General Debate, the majority of UN Member States express their concern over the continued economic, commercial and financial blockade unilaterally imposed against the Republic of Cuba, with adverse effects on its people.

Thus, Namibia re-iterates its call for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the embargo against Cuba.

Mr. President,

Namibia attaches great importance to sustainable development and the search for the best ways to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. In this regard, we will continue to actively cooperate with the international community to address Climate Change.

It is in this context that Namibia is seeking the support of UN member states to host the Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund in our capital city, Windhoek. If successful, this will provide an opportunity for a developing country to host such an important UN Agency. Given the opportunity, Namibia stands ready to discharge its obligations arising from hosting the Green Climate Fund Secretariat. We count on your support.

Mr. President,

The reform of the United Nations and its principal organs should aim to strengthen the organization to make it more efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of all its members. In this context, strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly is of paramount importance. Equally, the reform of the Security Council is at the core of the wider UN reform, given its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Namibia re-iterates its support for the Common African Position on the reform of the UN Security Council.

Mr. President,

Let us re-dedicate ourselves to the principle of the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, to save the current and succeeding generations from the scourges of war and build a prosperous future for our children.

I thank you.