



Welcoming Remarks

By

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***Launch of the United Nations Partnership Framework
(UNPAF) 2019-2023***

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UN House

Klein Windhoek, Windhoek, Namibia

Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the National Planning Commission – Namibia;

Hon. Sakeus Shangala, Minister of Justice;

Hon. Doreen Sioka, Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare;

Hon. Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment and Tourism;

Hon. Bernhard Haufiku, Minister of Health and Social Services;

Permanent Secretaries from the Ministries of International Relations and Cooperation, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Health and Social Services, Agriculture, Water and Forestry,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished invited guests,

My fellow UN Country Team members;

Academia, the Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations and Development Partners,

UN Colleagues;

Members of the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the launch of Namibia's United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) 2019-2023.

Let me start by thanking the Government, led by the National Planning Commission (NPC), our various partners and my UN Colleagues for their invaluable inputs and commitment over the past nine months.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The outcome of this consultation process is a “second generation” partnership framework, UNPAF 2.0, which we are launching today.

This partnership framework reflects the development aspiration articulated in Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063. At the national level, it is fully aligned to Vision 2030, NDP5, HPP, and the Blue Print for Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication.

This UNPAF is about how the UN supports Namibia to address ‘the last mile challenge’; how we reach the 18% of the population still classified as poor; how we reach the women and men who are ‘furthest behind’.

This task is perhaps the most difficult of all.

Honourable Minister,

This UNPAF is strategic and innovative in addressing Namibia's challenges. It is not about business as usual. It is clear on the game changers.

- This UNPAF gives primacy to maintaining and building new partnerships. This is evidenced by the wide array of participants at this launch.
- This UNPAF strengthens data systems as well as focuses on integrated planning, budgeting and implementation. It introduces innovation, e.g. area-based programming in support of Government's efforts to decentralize service delivery.
- This UNPAF seeks to strengthen the 'Delivering as One' approach. UN Agencies, who are not based in Namibia, but are supporting programmes and projects, can also be found in the framework.

More funding has also been allocated for this framework. The current indicative budget for UNPAF 2.0 has almost doubled from the previous framework, standing USD 156 million.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The UN has been consistent in telling Namibia's good stories: On the continent, it boasts the fastest reduction in poverty; it ranks #5 when it comes to good governance; and it has one of the highest expenditures in the social services.

Addressing the last mile challenge calls on us to build on these successes and work in partnership towards addressing issues such as;

- Unemployment, that stands at 34%, 38% for women and goes up to a staggering 43% for youth.
- Ending AIDS by 2030 and providing the necessary care and treatment to the 237,000 people living with HIV in Namibia¹;
- The challenge that disasters pose to development - Namibia provided emergency assistance to approximately 600,000 people² during the last drought.
- Namibia is rapidly becoming urbanized, with the population living in urban areas growing from 28% 1991 to 47% in 2016.³

¹ Ministry of Health and Social Services, National Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS 2017/2018 – 2021/2022

² 595,839, 2015 - OPM

³ NSA

- And preserving Namibia's diverse culture.

Issues such as these therefore cut across UNPAF 2.0.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Winning the 'War on Poverty' and reaching our 'last mile challenge' will require a tremendous amount of hard work by all of us. Harambee will have to be a verb and not a noun.

On my last day as the Resident Coordinator in Namibia, I am excited about the framework we are launching today. It recognizes the challenges and builds on Namibia's solid development foundation to ensure that no one feels left out.

I am so very grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve the Land of the Brave and the incredible support I was given by her people. I thank and truly wish Namibia well! Once again, I welcome you.