



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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# MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **SUBJECT: NAMIBIA CONGRATULATES AND WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO**

The Government and people of the Republic of Namibia congratulate and welcomes with pride Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebryesus of Ethiopia as the new Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Tedros is the first African to lead the WHO, a United Nations agency, in its almost 70-year history.

The elections were conducted by the WHO under more open and democratic rules than previously. During the two years of campaigning, Dr. Tedros received the full support of Member States of the African Union (AU) and many other countries from all corners of the world. **Namibia is singularly proud to be associated with this campaign.**

On 23 May 2017 the voting took place in a closed-door Session in which the Health Ministers of 186 countries cast their votes in secret. After three rounds of voting Dr. Tedros emerged as the winner with **133** votes to the **50** votes for the British candidate, Dr. David Nabarro, while there were three abstentions.

Dr. Tedros' sterling and exemplary leadership for better health in Ethiopia is globally recognized. He was the chief architect of that country's very successful health extension programme, which Namibia has been privileged to learn and draw lessons from.

The Government of Namibia is convinced that Dr. Tedros with his vast experience, especially as former Minister of Health and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, will be a Director General par excellence, who will build on the successes of his predecessor, Dr. Margaret Chan.

Dr. Tedros was a candidate endorsed by the AU and many other States. He will be a Director General caring and looking after the health of all the world's peoples, as he rightly alluded to "the diversity and the importance of listening". In addition, his vow to focus on the most needy and the importance of effective partnerships with health care providers, is most ensuring for the global community, thus underscoring his conviction that "all roads lead to universal health coverage

The Government of Namibia is looking forward to closely cooperating with Dr. Tedros, especially considering the pledged he made during his victory statement, outlining his "central priority" as geared towards "working to achieve universal health coverage", to "provide value for money" and to reform of the U.N. agency.

Permanent Secretary  
Selma Ashipala-Musavyi

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