



## Remarks

By

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**UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative**

**Formulation of NDP 5**

**15 July, 2016**

**Oshikoto, Namibia**

Director of Ceremonies

Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Economic Planning and Director  
General of the National Planning Commission,

Hon Governor xxxx

Director General of NPC

Representatives of the Civil Society Organizations and Faith-  
based Organizations

Representatives of Youth Organizations,

Representatives of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for inviting me to be part of the Oshikoto consultation process on Namibia's 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan.

I am pleased to be in a region with so many young people; a region with a magnet for tourism with the Otjikoto Lake, and the Etosha National Park; and a region that has the potential to further sustain livelihoods through agriculture, cattle rearing, and mining.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to say a few words about the global development agenda.

Last year, Member states of the UN--including Namibia--signed off on an ambitious development agenda. An agenda to set us on a path towards ending poverty; saving our planet; and ensuring prosperity and peace for all.

Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were thus born in perhaps one of the most consultative processes ever.

Due to this process, the SDGs represent the aspirations of the world. The goals are people's voices, and symbolize what people view as critical to ensuring sustainable and inclusive development.

Why are these Goals important?

Because they focus us all on a common development agenda. They mobilize and motivate us to work together to accelerate development and eradicate poverty sustainably. Because they form the basis on which all of us can be held to account, on whether we have made progress on sustainable development or not.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namibia has already made tremendous advancements when it comes to development.

Namibia ranks number 5 in Africa in terms of gender parity in parliament<sup>1</sup>; and number 1 in Africa in terms of press freedom. Over 90% of Namibia's children go to school; and Namibia has registered a 50% reduction in HIV infections<sup>2</sup>. And a point of distinction is the fact that Namibia has noted one of the fastest reductions in poverty on the continent.

Despite these good stories, Namibia has unfinished business; and that is what brings us here today.

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<sup>1</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union "Women in national parliaments as at 1 August 2015"

<sup>2</sup> 2015 Namibia MDG report

With a Gini coefficient of 0.59<sup>3</sup>, inequality is still high, almost 27% of the population still lives in poverty, youth unemployment stands at 39%<sup>4</sup>, over 40% of the population is food insecure and a drought emergency has just been declared.

More needs to be done.

His Excellency the President has declared a war on poverty, elaborated the HPP and announced that 2016 is the year of implementation.

Consultations, such as this one, to review progress as well as gaps, and that allow for critical thinking on how best to develop a strategy for achieving Vision 2030 will take place.

The UN is well placed to share knowledge, disseminate global best practice and help to find solutions to national development challenges.

We the UN in Namibia therefore reiterate our commitment to **remain your partner of choice**.

-A partner that believes in Vision 2030: a peaceful and industrialized nation, driven by Namibian women, men, girls and boys who are skilled, and healthy;

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<sup>3</sup> NDP 4

<sup>4</sup> 2014 Namibia Labor Force Survey

-A partner that believes that Poverty, especially in Namibia can be eradicated and

-A partner that believes that constructive engagement, must be leveraged if no one is to be left behind.

We look forward to todays discussions.

Thank you!