



**“Building Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption into the Post 2015
Development Framework”**

**Presentation by the UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Musinga T. Bandora at the Namibia
National Anti-Corruption Conference: The Safari Hotel-22 June 2015:**

The Master of Ceremonies

H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob-President of the Republic of Namibia

The Honourable Tom Alweendo, Minister and Director General NPC

Honourable Ministers and members of Parliament

Mr. Paul Noa, the Director of the National Anti-Corruption Commission

Senior Government Officials

Representatives of the Business Community, Civil Society, Media, Researchers and
Academicians

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me say how honoured I am to have been invited to say a few words at this important national conference. Allow me to commend Mr. Noa and his team for this timely initiative and for the detailed and comprehensive agenda covering all aspects of the corruption challenge that they have put together.

I have been asked to speak about “Building Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption into the Post 2015 Development Framework” Before doing so, allow me to say a few

words about the Millennium Development Goals whose end date of September this year is fast approaching.

Adopted in the year 2000, the eight Millennium Development Goals constitute a global consensus around a development framework for addressing extreme poverty within a fifteen year timeframe from 2000 to 2015.

Overall, progress and achievements of the MDGs in Africa and in Namibia has been mixed, not just across the goals, but also across countries, and even within countries.

The 2014 Africa MDG Report: “Assessing progress in Africa towards the MDGs” noted that Africa is on track to achieving four goals –namely– Achieving universal primary education; Promoting gender equality and empowering women; Combating HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and other diseases; as well as Global partnership for development. On the other hand, the report noted that Africa is unlikely to meet four other goals -that is- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; Reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; and Ensuring environmental sustainability.

Namibia has made great strides in achieving the goals on reducing extreme poverty, universal primary education, gender equality and environmental sustainability; however much remains to be done. Challenges such as limited access to land and food insecurity, structural inequality and social justice as well as weak institutional capacity, have contributed to the slower progress in meeting some of these goals.

As the finalization of the new Post 2015 Development Framework draw closer, there has been deliberate effort to learn from the experiences and lessons of implementing MDGs. Evaluations of MDGs have pointed out several lessons. Among those noted is how failures in governance, lack of transparency and accountability as well as corruption have collectively contributed to undermining progress in the delivery of MDGs. According to the Anti-Corruption for Development Organization corruption is estimated to raise the household price of water by as much as 30% and the general price of goods by 20%. Each year, corruption is estimated to cost about US\$2.6 trillion which is equivalent to more than 5% of global GDP. This estimation could reach up to 25% of GDP in Africa.

Equally, according to the 2012 report from Global Financial Integrity, developing countries lost US\$5.86 trillion to illicit financial outflows between 2001 and 2010. These resources would have been more than enough to meet the MDG target on education for all.

It is against this background that the various national, regional and global consultations on the Post 2015 Development Framework highlighted the need to address issues of accountability, transparency and corruption and to internalize the lessons learnt and ensure that this time round; enablers of progress are integrated into the elaboration and implementation of the new agenda.

For example in its report entitled “**A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development,**” the High Level Panel on the Post 2015 Development Framework advised that the Post 2015 agenda should build on MDGs, and be driven by what it called Five Transformative Shifts including building effective, open and accountable institutions and promoting peace and good governance.

Equally, under the Pillar on Peace and Security of the African Common Position on the Post 2015 Agenda, the African Union leaders commit to “tackle economic and social inequalities and exclusion; strengthen good and inclusive governance; fight against all forms of discrimination; and forge unity in diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms at the local, national and continental levels.

Likewise, in the “**Million Voices: The World We Want**” report on the global consultations that was presented by the UN Secretary General to the General Assembly in September 2013, the “peoples’ voices” called on governments to set bolder and ambitious targets for the new agenda and take deep political commitments to deliver on the goals-including building good governance, human rights, justice and security as well as transparency and accountability into the heart of the new agenda.

It was therefore only logical that these calls from the “people’s voices” found resonance in the report of Open Ended Working Group of the UN General Assembly that proposed 17 New Sustainable Goals with 169 targets for the post 2015 Development Framework. Indeed promoting good governance and ensuring human rights for example, underpins all the post-2015 goals. In addition proposed Goal 16 is specific to ‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies,

provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels’.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen

In a country, integrating transparency, accountability and anti-corruption is a continuous process of elaborating policies, enacting appropriate laws, educating and building partnerships with the public, building capacities of people, of institutions and strengthening systems for effective implementation across the development spectrum.

In order to integrate transparency, accountability and anti-corruption into the Post 2015 Development Framework countries are being urged to build more effective institutions, to improve governance and promote effective service delivery. Transparency and accountability are key elements in the fight against corruption and they are pivotal to the enjoyment of human rights.

Transparency speaks to “Open Government”- where a national open data policy is in place and citizens have full access to information about development including on national revenue, budget allocation and expenditures. It has been observed that with greater citizen engagement, public service delivery improves and inequalities in accessing public services do lessen. Part of the transparency agenda is education and citizens must own the new goals and be part of their implementation. This is why countries, including Namibia are being called upon to take measures to educate citizens on the new sustainable goals, to identify those goals that most align with national priorities and integrate them into the national development agenda.

Accountability speaks to the presence of disclosure including of income, assets and conflict of interests. It speaks to citizen ability to have a voice over essential services such as water, education, health and others; it speaks to fighting impunity and ensuring that those who commit crimes are prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Accountability is equally the commitment that governments must take to own and drive the implementation of the new 2015 framework and be accountable for development results.

Anti corruption speaks the extent to which countries and societies fight the culture of bribery and illicit self enrichment. It speaks to effective national and international collaboration to combat illicit financial flows including money laundering. It also speaks to transparency in especially the extractive industry sector. It speaks to strengthening of national capacities for

preventing such illicit flows, including strengthening taxation and monitoring and oversight mechanisms. Curtailing illicit capital outflows has the potential to unlock billions for financing the new framework. This is why the forthcoming Third Financing of Development Conference in Addis Ababa next month will together with deliberating financing options for the Post 2015 agenda, including obtaining a recommitment of the developed countries to the 0.7% GDP target for ODA; it will also deal with illicit financial flows.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen

There is consensus that addressing corruption must embody a comprehensive but graduated strategy that recognizes that a targeted sectoral approach can yield better results. The sectoral approach enables the development and execution of sector-specific anti-corruption programmes that address the mismanagement of resources as well as promote institutional accountability and integrity in the sectors. Engendering a culture of integrity, prevention and prosecution including forfeiture of proceeds of corruption must go hand in hand.

The strategic objectives set forth in the Draft Namibia National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2015-2019, including increasing the level of political accountability, preventing institutional corruption in the public and private sectors, anti-corruption advocacy and education as well as civic engagement are in line with the UN Convention Against Corruption.

In this respect, I wish to commend the ACC for elaborating such a comprehensive Anti-Corruption Strategy. Now the challenge will be to implement it. But as often said promoting transparency, accountability and fighting corruption cannot be the responsibility of the Anti-Corruption Commission and law enforcement bodies alone. It must be a societal engagement whereby at each level of responsibility, integrity is promoted, accountability is enforced and corrupt activities are prosecuted according to the law. And here it requires the political will and leadership of government, parliament, the judiciary and civil society. It requires change of attitude-so that corruption is frowned upon and NOT celebrated or admired by society. Happily corruption levels in Namibia are still within manageable levels. Determined efforts must continue to ensure that it is nipped in the bud and eliminated before it becomes a cancer like we unfortunately see in many of our countries.

This dialogue provides an opportunity for stakeholders to offer new perspective on how to strengthen these critical elements of good governance in order to achieve the national development plans and Vision 2030. It is my hope that we will conclude the conference with a validated and endorsed National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan.

I thank you