



**Remarks**

**By:**

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Representative**

**Training of Trainers on Treaty Body Reporting**

**Windhoek,**

**18 September 2017,**

- Mr. Issaskar Ndjoze Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice
- Senior Government officials present
- Ms. Hilary Gbedemah, Expert Member of the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Members of the UN Country Team
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning;

I am pleased to be with you today and would like to start by thanking the Ministry of Justice and the Office of UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, for the opportunity to address this undertaking.

This important training which will take place over the next four days aims to build the capacity of the Namibian Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and representatives from other Government Ministries and institutions, in order to better report on Namibia's implementation of the various Human Rights Treaties.

Currently there are nine core International Human Rights Treaties<sup>1</sup>, designed to advance human rights and provide the tools to address issues faced by people across the world.

These Treaties are essential to the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Charter, founded on the principals of peace and security, development and human rights.

In Namibia these Conventions and Treaties play an important role, and are directly relevant to all Namibia's Planning Frameworks: Vision 2030, NDP5, the Harambee Prosperity Plan and the Poverty Blue Print.

The implementation and reporting on these treaties is in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to end poverty; save our planet; and ensure prosperity for all.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx>

As you are aware once a country becomes a party to one of the international human rights treaties, they are obliged to submit periodic reports to the treaty monitoring bodies.

This process is important as it allows for the monitoring of the countries implementation, and also presents an opportunity to debate human rights issues and identify problems and areas that may require further attention.

Reporting to the treaty bodies, also creates an avenue for expert guidance from the human rights committees, on interpretation and implementation of the treaty.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Namibia has good stories to tell when it comes to the ratification of International Human Rights Treaties. The UN commends Namibia, for ratifying seven out of the nine core treaties

The UN further applauds government for not only recognizing that there is still work to be done, in the form of reporting; but for proactively requesting technical support from the Office of the High

Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to develop an Implementation Action Plan.

The UN in Namibia, your partner of choice is working closely with government to ensure the implementation of the various conventions including: The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

In addition my office was recently approached by the Office of the Vice President, to support government in hosting the National Conference on Disability. We see this as an opportunity, to explore how we can support government reporting on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol.

**In conclusion ladies and Gentlemen,**

My hope is that after this training, the members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) and all participants will continue to play a key role in enhancing Namibia's reporting to human rights mechanisms, an excellent way to ensure that nobody is left behind.

The UN in Namibia, therefore reiterates our commitment, to remain a partner that will engage constructively until the job is done: as we continue to enjoy a peaceful and prosperous Namibia; driven by a healthy and educated people and where no one feels left out.

**I thank you!**