



UNCG

United Nations Communications Group

Namibia

Press Release

For Immediate Release

UN System in Namibia celebrates partnerships and the SDGs on United Nations Day

Windhoek, 24 October 2016: Today, the UN System in Namibia observed United Nations Day at Windhoek International School (WIS). The Namibian commemoration was held under the auspices of partnership i.e. "Agenda 2030: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Partnerships and the work of the UN in Namibia".

The official UN Day programme was led by the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Kiki Gbeho, with the keynote address delivered by Hon. Lucia Lipumbu on behalf of Tom Alweendo, the Minister of Economic Planning and Director General of the National Planning Commission. In attendance were the diplomatic corps, representation from the various line Ministries, as well as stakeholders from the private sector, NGOs, development partners and donors.

Official proceedings included statements read by WIS students on behalf of Mr. Peter Mackenzie, the Director of WIS; the official remarks of the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, delivered by Dr. Barihuta Tharcisse; and a vote of thanks by Dr. Monir Islam, WHO Representative to Namibia. WIS students delivered sterling performances throughout the official programme, singing and dancing about world peace and sustainable development.

The proceedings were followed by an educational and interactive UN Day Exhibition. Resident UN agencies in Namibia, alongside the Government of the Republic of Namibia and stakeholders showcased their work and mandates and actively engaged in information sharing with invited guests and the general public.

In her address, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Kiki Gbeho said that, "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores that all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement the SDGs. Given that no one actor can realise the SDGs and that an essential feature of the goals is that they are interlinked, the 2030 Agenda emphasises the role of partnerships – the interlinking of human agency to achieve a common purpose – as a critical means of implementation."

Ms. Gbeho further noted that, "The UN has a mandate to support its member states to enable them realize their own local mandates. Therefore, a successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between the different governments, the

private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships which are built upon principles and values, shared vision and shared goals, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level. In Namibia, the UN has partnered with different ministries to work on different issues addressed in the Harambee Prosperity plan, such as poverty eradication."

The Honourable Lucia lipumbu echoed the importance of partnerships in her keynote address and commended the United Nations for its support and for remaining a trusted development partner. "Your efforts, your assistance and your participation are well recognised and humbly acknowledged," she said.

"Challenges are still prevailing and they require our [united efforts]," Hon. lipumbu continued, emphasising that partnerships are important in achieving the SDGs in Namibia as well as in executing Namibia's National Development Plans, including its Fifth which is in the works.

Highlighting the SDGs, Honourable lipumbu said, [Eradicating poverty is the] only sustainable way to ensure that global peace and stability remains."

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. Since 1948, 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day, and this year marks the 71st anniversary of the UN's existence.

Specifically, this year's global commemoration is being used to highlight concrete actions people can take to help achieve the SDGs.

The UN Exhibition will be open to the public, educational institutions and other stakeholders on 25 October from 10h00 - 16h00.

Ends.

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