



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **The UN Country Team in Namibia holds its Annual Retreat**

*during the period 06-09 February 2017, in Swakopmund, Namibia.*

**Swakopmund, 14 February 2017** – The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Namibia, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Kiki Gbeho, held its 2017 Annual Retreat, a strategic review and planning session.

The main purpose of the retreat was to review the UN Country Team’s progress against its 2016 work plan as well as plan for the year 2017 and beyond. The retreat also provided an opportunity for the UN Country Team to engage the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN), on key emerging development issues. The 2017 Annual retreat was held under the theme: “UN Delivering together towards Namibia’s Prosperity”.

The Country Team was joined by Honorable Lucia Iipumbu, the Deputy Minister of Economic Planning plus a team of technical staff members from the National Planning Commission. The Team also paid a brief courtesy visit to the Governor of the Erongo Region, Hon. Cleophas Mutjavikua, who expressed gratitude towards the UN System’s work in the country.

The Team also visited the Immanuel Ruiters Primary School in Walvis Bay to learn more about the national School Feeding Programme implemented by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture with the technical support of the UN Agency, the World Food Programme (WFP). The School Feeding Programme positively contributes to learners’ performance as well as increases class participation and attendance in schools. Currently, the School Feeding Programme supports 330,000 learners in all fourteen regions of Namibia.

In her remarks, Hon Lucia Iipumbu, acknowledged the role of the UN Country Team in support of the Government of the Republic, particularly during the formulation of its fifth National Development Plan (NDP 5) and domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals to mention but a few. She further acknowledged that GRN-UN Partnership Framework (UNPAF) has been a strategic vehicle of technical support for NDP 4 implementation and that she remains hopeful that the UN System in Namibia will remain the Government’s strategic partner of choice.

The Deputy Minister called for the NPC and the UN to hold hands as strategic partners to ensure effective implementation of the national development plans.

The UNCT engaged in various fruitful discussions on how to move forward into 2017 to achieve national, regional and international development goals in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

With a renewed understanding of the immense impact of the UN System's work in Namibia, the Country Team agreed to a number of strategic priorities for 2017 including other areas for possible expansion in support of development work in Namibia.

Ends.

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