

THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA DURING THE
GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL
ASSEMBLY,**

NEW YORK CITY, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

23 SEPTEMBER 2021

Mr. President

1. Namibia joins other member states in congratulating you on your election as President of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which is convened under the theme: *Building resilience through hope- to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainability, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people, and revitalize the United Nations.*

2. We also wish to commend the Secretary General, His Excellency António Guterres, for his profound and moving statement, highlighting the many challenges the world is faced with today while imploring world leaders to act now

to solve these problems. Your Excellency, we have heard your clarion call loud and clear.

Mr. President

3. For the second year in a row, the world finds itself engulfed by the dark cloud of the Covid-19 pandemic which continues to claim thousands of lives daily. However, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

4. Global efforts to develop vaccines have been a scientific triumph and a testament to human ingenuity. In just under a year the unimaginable has happened. Several different vaccines have been tested, and produced to be delivered to millions around the world. Unfortunately, the global rollout of the vaccine has not been

impervious to the scourge of inequality. Vaccine Apartheid has resulted in significant disparities in terms of vaccine rollout and availability, with many people in developing countries left out. It is a pity that we have a situation where in some countries, citizens are at the stage of receiving booster shots while in other countries, many are still waiting to receive their first doses of vaccines. Let us bear in mind that, "No one is safe unless we are all safe."

5.The Covid-19 has impacted poorer countries more acutely and unevenly. Faced with high levels of debt and insufficient access to finance, developing countries are struggling to mitigate the severe effects of the crisis. Namibia

however, aims deploy innovative approaches to ensure sustainable economic development in this volatile period of the Covid-19 pandemic and Climate Change.

6. Given our renewable resources such as solar, wind as well as the ocean, Namibia has decided to prioritize the development of green and blue economies. Furthermore, we are also well positioned through our recent membership to the High-Level Panel on Ocean Sustainability, to design and champion a sustainable “blue economy”, which will grow our economic base and create the much-needed jobs, while also tackling climate change.

7. Additionally, Namibia has made progress in incubating renewable energy assets in the form of Green Hydrogen and Ammonia as part of its energy transition through green industrialization. To this end, the country is at an advanced stage in the bid evaluation process for the development of several sites for the export of green hydrogen.

Mr. President,

Responding to the needs of the planet requires us to enhance our Governance architectures in order to enable us to act in the best interest of our planet and its citizens. To this extent, Africa has come a long way from the days of the First Wave of African leaders, extraordinary

personalities, who paved the way towards independence. Following this period, global conflict in the form of the Cold War, resulted in Africa's Second Wave leaders being caught up in the malaise of military coups and One-Party States. However, having emerged from this tumultuous period, the Third Wave of African leaders have ushered in an era defined by democratic elections and term limits. As the third President of Namibia since our independence in 1990, I am currently in my second and final term which will end on March 20, 2025. This is the new order on the continent. We admit that there have been reversals but wherever such incidents have taken place, the

African Union, supported by respective Regional Economic Communities (RECs), has ensured that perpetrators are ostracised. This is the New Africa, and Africa which belies in Constitutional Order.

Mr. President,

8. Namibia stands firm in its belief that there is no room for discrimination of any kind in this world. In this regard, we remain committed to the implementation of The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which embodies our firm commitment as the international community to rid the world from the scourges of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance at the national, regional and international level.

9. The question of Palestine, now into its 73rd year after the Nakba, remains unresolved. On this crucial issue, Namibia wishes to amplify the statement by Secretary General Guterres who explicitly stated that leaders on both sides should “resume a meaningful dialogue, recognizing the two-State solution as the only pathway to a just and comprehensive peace”. Similarly, it has now been nearly 50 years and still the people of Western Sahara are waiting for their right to exercise their inalienable right to freedom and independence. Namibia welcomes the appointment of His Excellency Alexander Ivanko by the Secretary General as his Special Representative for Western Sahara. We hope the

new Special Representative will devote his full attention to the matter to enable the people of Western Sahara to have the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination without further delay.

10. In the same vein Mr. President, in accordance with the resolutions unanimously adopted by this august Assembly, we call for an end of the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States against Cuba. The people of Cuba deserve to pursue the developmental aspirations and attain economic freedom. We call on President Biden, who was an invaluable member of the Obama Administration which sought rapprochement

between Washington and Havana, to rekindle that spirit of respect and peace between the USA and Cuba, which President Obama pursued.

Mr. President

11. Namibia is committed to the reform of the UN Security Council, as a member of the African Union Committee of Ten. We therefore call on all countries to support the reform of the UN Security Council in line with the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

Mr. President,

12. As we continue to build back better, we have a collective responsibility to ensure the

participation of women at all levels of governance and economic activity as a symbol of freedom and equality in society. Namibia believes that women's participation and representation is central to equitable and sustainable development. Thus, Namibia continues to advocate for increased gender equality around the world, and we set ourselves the challenge of leading by example in our policies, programmes and actions.

13. Similarly, we take cognizance of the fact that our youth are the backbones of the global village and the custodians of the keys to humanity's future. Therefore, Namibia remains committed to supporting the development of our

young people and promoting greater youth participation in all areas of society, since they have a critical role to play in promoting global peace and development.

Mr.President,

14. We face the most critical period in human history. Global peace is at stake, human dignity is at stake and the future of our global village is at stake. As we meet in this global parliament of humanity, we are called upon by the citizens of this world to craft a collective way forward that will ensure that we recover from the devastation of Covid-19 and chart a way forward towards a brighter future. Although the task may seem daunting, through unity of purpose, we will

prevail. For where there is unity, there is hope to overcome Covid-19, where there is unity, people can return to rebuilding sustainably, where there is unity, we can respond to the needs of the planet and respect the rights of all people. Indeed, through unity, we will revitalize the United Nations, transforming it into a bastion of global democracy that will save the world from the scourge of war and reaffirm faith in the fundamental human rights, dignity and worth of each and every human being on this planet.

I thank you.