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**STATEMENT
BY
H.E. MR. WILFRIED I. EMVULA
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**“THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE PLENARY
ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS
ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE
REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE
IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL”**

**NEW YORK
10 APRIL 2012**

Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to join other distinguished representatives in thanking you for convening this round of Intergovernmental negotiations to consider the Position of Africa on the reform of the Security Council. While we align our statement with the statement made by H.E. Shekou Touray, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, coordinator of the African Common Position on Security Council reform, we wish to make further observations in our national capacity.

My delegation wishes to express its profound gratitude and appreciation to individual delegations and regional groups that have expressed their support to the African Common Position. I am sure your support stems from the conviction of the justness of our case and the understanding of historical injustices done to a vast continent composed of 54 countries. Namibia is fully committed to advancing the African Common Position, as eloquently presented earlier today, by the Coordinator of the AU Committee of Ten (C-10).

As one of the major organs of the United Nations, the Security Council is entrusted with a primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, acting on behalf of all UN member states. This means that decisions made by the Security Council do have an impact on the lives and wellbeing of people around the world. As articulated in earlier rounds of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN), Africa is united, stands together and speaks with one voice in demanding the acceleration of the reform process, to make the Security Council more broadly representative, efficient, more democratic and transparent in its legitimacy of making decisions.

Mr. Chairperson

There are distorted views that suggest that, the African Common Position is not flexible and is stalling the process of reform. We wish to reiterate that, the African Common Position is in no way stalling the reform process. It has never been and as such will not be, even after the conclusion of these deliberations. The only primary objective of the African Common Position remains, as outlined by its Coordinator, the Ambassador Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, and complemented by other members of

our group. It is not Africa's wish to lock the door on the reform. To the contrary, Africa is outside knocking on the door for those inside to open up and heed to the legitimate aspirations of those outside. We are fully cognizant of the fact that, negotiations are like horse trading.

One cannot give a horse which he/she doesn't have. In this case what can Africa give in order to get in return?

We in Namibia have time and again, reiterated the urgency for reforming the Security Council, the outcome of which should address the imbalances as well as respond to the legitimate aspirations of UN member states, calling for the reform. If the current composition was broadly and fairly representative, we would not have been here deliberating on this matter. Our deliberations today, like those that preceded them, are out of conviction that the reform of the Security Council is essential. However, we cannot reform the Security Council by merely creating a third category of membership. Hence our position that, as long as it continues to exist, and as a matter of common justice, a veto should be extended to new permanent members.

Namibia is strongly opposed to any second-class permanent membership status for African countries, or any other member state. The situation in Africa is unique and makes it all the more imperative for the continent to be fully represented in the Security Council. The fact that the agenda of the Security Council has dealt more with issues concerning Africa than any other region; is a compelling case for the continent to play an active part in deciding upon matters affecting its wellbeing.

Mr. Chairperson

In conclusion, let me reiterate that we, African countries, just like any other UN member state, have rights and duties conferred and acknowledged in the Charter of the United Nations. We therefore, appeal for the wide membership of the United Nations for greater understanding of the merits of Africa Common Position so that together we will continue to play a meaningful and effective role towards the maintenance of international peace and security. We further appeal for the active participation and understanding of all member states in this process, including that of the permanent members, whose willingness to share is important to give prominence and urgency to

the conclusion of this process.

Namibia, like other countries of our Group, stands ready to work together with all reform-minded countries and groups of countries in moving the process of the Security Council reform towards achieving decisive progress.

I thank you!