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**STATEMENT
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CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I.
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT
THE SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE
ON
"PEACEKEEPING: A MULTI DIMENSIONAL
APPROACH"**

**NEW YORK
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Mr. President,

My delegation joins other distinguished representatives who have spoken before us in congratulating you for assuming the Presidency of the Council and commends you for scheduling this important debate on United Nations Peacekeeping. No doubt, the concept paper on UN Peacekeeping: A Multidimensional Approach you circulated has so well guided our deliberation today.

Similarly, I would like to thank the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his insightful statement on this important subject. While my delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Mootaz Ahmadein Khali, Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, I would like to make additional comments in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

The nature and scope of UN Peacekeeping Operations have evolved over the years since the first deployment in 1948. This evolution has come with challenges and complexities. In order to

overcome challenges and meet the changing demands, the creation of enabling conditions to the success of the mission is very essential at the early stage. Similarly, the international community, particularly the Security Council must at all times muster the necessary political will and send a clear message expressing its resolve to act.

It is our conviction that peace is a cornerstone to the foundation of sustainable development, it is therefore essential that it must be promoted and whenever it is in danger, efforts must be made to maintain and save it. While each operation comes with its own uniqueness, hard lessons from past experiences can serve as a guide in new operations to avoid repetition of past mistakes.

Mr. President,

While Peacekeeping continues to be an essential means in assisting people in conflict areas from the scourge of war, strong emphasis should be placed on prevention and peace-building. When conflict is resolved the task of peace building is equally challenging. It often requires a number of corrective

measures by weighing reconciliation through the scale of justice. These efforts require well trained, discipline and motivated personnel.

Regional and sub-regional organizations are important partners in solving conflicts throughout the world, as provided for under Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter. It is therefore, important to strengthen the early warning capacity of regional organization to monitor and detect potential conflict and contain them before they become full-blown.

Mr. President,

The contribution of women in peacekeeping operations requires a special acknowledgement. More often women in peacekeeping missions serve as a source of inspiration to women and girls in conflict ridden parts of the world. On its part, Namibia has heeded the call by the Secretary-General by nominating women to serve in various UN peacekeeping missions.

While many conflicts today are between local actors, external actors must refrain from fuelling conflicts and instead use their influence to assist in finding

amicable solution. It is for this reason that Namibia believes in the respect for sovereign equality of all states. These constitute the pillars of international law, and, indeed, the "bedrock" of peaceful relations between nations.

Namibia is a beneficiary of UN Peacekeeping between April 1989 and March 1990 when the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG) composed of peacekeepers and monitors from many parts of the world assisted its transition to independence. Our experience has demonstrated the importance of national ownership of peace building and the responsibility to guard and keep it away from harm. Equally, the success of UNTAG's mission stimulated a sense of responsibility for Namibia also to play its modest share in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to highlight the importance of enhancing cooperation between troop contributing countries, the Security Council and the UN Secretariat. We believe that this will contribute to an

inclusive and an informed decision making process that could positively impact the on-going peacekeeping operations.

In conclusion, Mr. President, let me also take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to men and women from many nations including your own country Pakistan, who have sacrificed their lives in line of duty while trying to bring peace to conflict ridden part of the world. Today as we speak, there are still many peacekeepers on various missions trying their best to make the world a better and secure place for us to live in. It is not an easy task, yet in the face of multiple challenges they have always shown an enduring determination to bring hope to people in despair and to put a smile on their faces of children in conflict areas.

I thank you!