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**STATEMENT
BY
H.E MR. NEVILLE GERTZE,
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
AT THE FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE 72ND SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
UNDER AGENDA ITEM
“COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS”**

**New York
26 OCTOBER 2017**

Mr. Chairperson,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. We thank Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping and Mr. Atul Khare, Under Secretary-General for Field Support for their briefings.
2. At the outset let me reiterate Namibia's unwavering commitment to contributing to peacekeeping operations both in terms of personnel and finance.

Mr. Chairperson,

3. Namibia believes that peace and security are maintained by abiding by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We reaffirm that the United Nations is the central mechanism for the maintenance of international peace and security, including conflict-prevention, peacekeeping, and the building of sustainable peace. UN peacekeeping operations, then, should comply strictly with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and key principles that govern peacekeeping operations.
4. Lasting peace is achieved not through military solutions, but by political resolution. We, therefore, welcome the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2379 which emphasizes that priority should lie in political solutions to conflict, including through mediation, ceasefire monitoring and assisting in the implementation of peace agreements. These should form the hallmark of the United Nations approach to resolving conflict.
5. Given the circumstances and new challenges facing UN peacekeeping operations, Namibia welcomes and supports the Secretary-General's reforms to the peace and security architecture of the United Nations. The reforms will enable the peacekeeping missions to fully implement their mandates. Namibia calls all Member States to support these efforts of Secretary-General.
6. In order to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations a periodic review mechanism should be established in order to ensure the continuing role that peacekeeping operations are expected to play with a view to ensuring the progress and ultimate fulfillment of their mandates.

7. Peacekeeping forces are key to the proper implementation of the peacekeeping mandates. The United Nations must seriously consider the role of Troop-Contributing Countries (TCCs). It should strengthen communications with TCCs and support their capacity in terms of improving the quality and equipment of peacekeeping personnel and enhance the ability of peacekeeping troops to fulfill their mandates.
8. I wish to highlight that peacekeeping operations should be respectful toward those in whose countries they operate. Relevant UN agencies should be aware of strictly observing their respective mandates in peacekeeping activities and should focus on strengthening the host countries' ability to stabilize politically and economically.
9. Sustainable peace and development are both mutually reinforcing and dependent. While peace relies on development for its foundation, development is not possible in an atmosphere of conflict. As such, Namibia looks forward to intensified cooperation with the United Nations offices in-country, in the southern African region and internationally, to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. We also call on the UN offices to respect the social systems and development paths chosen by countries on their own.
10. Peacekeeping operations should also, therefore, undertake efforts to meet the needs of the host countries. For instance, it should provide tailored support to help with security capacity-building and assist the host country in achieving desired self-reliant developments early as possible.

Mr. Chairperson

11. Namibia looks forward to the alignment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the AU Agenda 2063, in support of accelerated economic development. This will help to address the root causes of conflicts in Africa. We call on the international community to always pursue their policies on Africa that are characterized by sincerity, good faith, justice and shared interests. Africa must be supported in pursuance of African solutions to African problems.
12. It should be noted that the African Union (AU) has promoted solidarity and unity among African countries in their quest for peace and development. Substantive progress has been made in this regard. It is Namibia's hope that the United Nations and the AU will fully implement the joint UN-AU Framework on Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security so as to enhance

cooperation in areas such as conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction.

13. Namibia supports the positive consideration of the proposal for financing AU-led peace operations, effectively helping Africa to secure sustainable and predictable funding. Nevertheless, at this point in time, we wish to point out that the recent cuts of the budget of peacekeeping operations may reverse the gains already achieved in some conflict areas in the world.

Mr. Chairperson

14. Last but not least, Namibia attaches great importance to issues of gender as well as of women in peace and security. We are fully committed to the zero-tolerance policy against sexual exploitation and abuse and peacekeeping missions. In this regard, we appreciate and welcome the efforts by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations for its improved focus on preventing, pursuing and rectifying misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, at missions. Namibia has signed the Secretary-General's Compact on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
15. To conclude, we would like to pay tribute to the peacekeepers of all United Nations peacekeeping missions in active service for their extraordinary courage and dedication. We also extend our condolences to the families of all those peacekeepers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

I thank you for your attention.