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STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

72nd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SECOND COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 23 (a-c):
“ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND OTHER
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES”

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Mr. Chairperson,

1. At the outset, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your able leadership and excellent stewardship as Chair of the Second Committee.
2. Namibia aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representatives of Ecuador on behalf of the G77 and China.

Mr. Chairperson,

3. Poverty Eradication is the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. Therefore, Namibia remains committed to the eradication of poverty and firmly believes that no one should be left behind. With this being said, Namibia has instituted its very own Blueprint on Wealth Redistribution and Poverty Eradication, a National Equitable Economic Empowerment Bill, the Harambee Prosperity Plan and its Fifth National Development Plan.
4. While Namibia has made substantial progress since our independence 27 years ago, we have faced considerable developmental challenges such as extreme inequalities particularly amongst the youth, we have faced major droughts and floods, an increased unemployment rate not of our liking, inadequate housing and widespread poverty.

Mr. Chairperson,

5. In recognition of the need for decent work and job creation, the government has put in place several policies that protect workers. These include among others the following; minimum wage for the key industries and sectors,

safety standards, adherence to suitable environmental practices and employee's ownership and investment from government in key sectors to spur on job creation opportunities.

6. In line with its Constitution, Namibia has recently granted all primary and secondary going children the right to free basic education and secondary education as a means of combatting poverty.
7. Namibia is currently undergoing a demographic transition; the country has an opportunity for an accelerated economic growth in which it can leverage its large number of young workers to help build the economy. In this regard, Namibia has developed initiatives such as the Youth Credit Schemes, increase investments in Vocational Education and Training and measures that give youth preference in skill development and employment.
8. Namibia has provided several social grants mechanisms for its people in the forms of tax exemption for the poor, increase in pension for the elderly and a solidarity tax that is ear marked for poverty eradication activities.
9. Namibia established a Food Bank that aims at combatting hunger and provides adequate nutrition for the poorest of the poor. These food banks also create further jobs for Namibian youth.
10. Furthermore, Namibia continues to pursue macroeconomic stability, including fiscal discipline, which directly benefits women, especially rural women who are currently classified as vulnerable and extremely poor. Women's access to economic and productive resources has improved since independence.

11. Namibia considers its classification as an upper middle-income country to be problematic. This classification does not take into account the huge income disparity between the wealthy and the poor as a result of the policy of apartheid prior to independence. It unfairly deprives Namibia from accessing concessional funding which the country needs to pursue its developmental objectives to eradicate poverty.

Mr. Chairperson,

12. In closing, we reiterate Namibia's commitment in achieving its deadline for eradicating poverty by 2025.

I thank you.