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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE  
AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**72<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**SECOND COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA ITEM 21 (a-d):  
“GLOBALISATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE”**

**NEW YORK  
13 October 2017**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

1. I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to reflect on Namibia's position under "globalization and interdependence". My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 & China.
2. My delegation welcomes the Report of the Secretary-General entitled: "Fulfilling the promise of globalization: advancing sustainable development in an interconnected world".

**Mr. Chairperson,**

3. I fully agree with the Secretary-General that globalization is not a new phenomenon. Globalisation is based on interdependence, and encompasses and influences almost every aspect of our daily lives from finance and trade to exchanges of ideas and culture, often leading to better governance.
4. Namibia believes that our regional, continental and international linkages, in other words, our globalized economy and structures, serve to benefit the country through the exchange of goods, services and goals. Immediately after independence, Namibia joined the United Nations, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU) and the Commonwealth. Another important membership for Namibia was the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Community. Our globalized linkages were established through trade and finance by our membership of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the ACP through Economic Partnership Agreements and the World Trade Organisation.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

5. The SG's Report indicates the strong influence on us all of international trade. Indeed, for Namibia as a primary export nation of what we consider to be the world's best beef and fish, as well as gemstone diamonds, amongst others, the ability to trade internationally is essential. As such, trade relations with the SADC and the African continent, as well as with the EU through the EPAs and the USA through AGOA, and also countries in the Far East such as China, have helped our economy develop so that we were able to bring down poverty from 37% in 1990 to 18% currently.
6. Namibia believes in the importance of strong regional groupings to develop the continent and has worked to ensure a balance of openness and protection of our small economy. We have, therefore, actively engaged in implementing the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2005 to 2025), and in developing the Africa Tri-partite Free Trade

Agreement, and Continental Free Trade Africa. Our regional focus includes enabling our land-locked SADC neighbours to become sea-linked by supporting them with dry docks and a road and rail infrastructure which links the entire southern African region.

7. Our regional commitment also impacts on other sectors such as health. For example, in order to combat diseases such as malaria and polio, Namibia works together with its neighbours for interlinked programmes to ensure regional immunization.
8. The UN and other international organisations are essential to the positive experience of globalization. They contribute to improved governance in our own countries and ensure that we all pull together so that no one is left behind.

**Mr Chairperson,**

9. While Namibia benefited from globalization and positive growth over many years, we were also heavily impacted by the global economy slow down, and the supposedly low growth in large neighbouring economies. Externally we had to contend with the impact of the commodity price crash. Simultaneously, climate change impacted us with a severe drought over the past three consecutive years, affecting our agricultural sector as well as wet industries and the construction supply chain. Liquidity came under pressure due to weak market confidence and consequently we saw a tight cash flow situation. Our economy is however, emerging from what the Minister of Finance has determined is “a perfect storm”.

**Mr Chairperson,**

10. Namibia continues to caution against the arbitrary classification of countries based on income alone such as through the current approach, developed by international financial institutions, and adopted by the UN, to classify countries based solely on GDP. This has caused Namibia, like other upper-middle income countries, to be unfairly deprived of access to concessional funding which is essential for development.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

11. From our slowed economy, we rely once again on globalization for recovery as the medium-term prospects improve. Growth is projected to increase over the coming year. Our declared war against poverty has not been defeated but is merely slowed somewhat by the storm from which we are emerging.

12. Globalisation may be a blessing or a curse, depending on circumstances faced at any given time. However, the good certainly outweighs the negative and we must continue to work together across the many sectors represented in Agenda 2030 so that no one is left behind.

**I thank you.**