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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AGENDA ITEMS 56, 57, 58, 59 AND 60  
“GENERAL DEBATE ON DECOLONIZATION”**

**NEW YORK  
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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

My delegation joins other distinguished delegates who spoke before us in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this Committee. We are confident that you will steer the deliberations of our Committee to a successful conclusion. Let me also extend our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau and pledge my delegation's full support and cooperation during this Session of the General Assembly. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Simona-Mirela Miculescu for the commendable and dynamic leadership and guidance that she provided to the work of the Committee during the 66th Session.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the Statement by H.E. Ambassador Mohammad Khazae, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the NAM.

Mr. Chairman,

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples remains an unfulfilled promise nearly fifty-two years after the UN General Assembly passed **Resolution 1514** to that effect. The right to self-determination cannot be granted as act of generosity by the occupying power, but it is an inalienable right

which is acknowledged in the UN Charter. Every nation represented here today does so because its people are exercising the right to determine their own future. If we enjoy the freedom and right to determine our own future, why should we debate the granting of the same rights to peoples who have been for so long denied the very right we ourselves consider fundamental to human progress? It is our conviction that occupation of any territory by force is morally wrong and politically unacceptable. According to Philosopher Dante Alighieri, "The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis." Thus, my delegation finds it difficult to maintain neutrality as long as there are people who are still denied their right to self-determination.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation represents the people who not so long time ago were subject of the same debate in this very Committee. Therefore, Namibia as a product of international solidarity and goodwill, which this organization played a vital role, knows only too well how it feels to live under foreign domination and colonial subjugation. Our experience, human tragedy as it was, had taught us hard lessons to value freedom and independence as well as to wish the same onto others who have not yet attain those fundamental rights. Hence, Namibia will continue to keep faith with the peoples of Western Sahara and Palestine who are still yearning to be free and exercise their rights to self-determination.

Equally, we are concerned that the question of Western Sahara remains unresolved after so many years. We, therefore, encourage the parties to the conflict to redouble their efforts and speed up the negotiation process that would eventually lead to the holding of a free and fair referendum in Western Sahara as provided for by relevant United Nations resolutions. Just like any other nation, the people of Western Sahara are entitled to the right to determine their own destiny.

Mr. Chairman,

Namibia attaches great importance to the issue of decolonization and as such, fully supports the agenda on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries which meant to address the plight of people who are still under colonial domination.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate Namibia's unwavering support and solidarity with the peoples of Western Sahara, Palestine and all those who are not yet free. We hope their long cherished goal of freedom will be attained sooner than later. United Nations cannot and should not shut the door of freedom on those who are yearning to be free and exercise the same right enjoyed by every member of this family of sovereign nations.

I thank you.