



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations

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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE**

**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**73<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AT**

**THE SECURITY COUNCIL**

**ON**

**THE OPEN DEBATE IN CONNECTION WITH THE AGENDA ITEM “COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UN AND REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: THE ROLE OF STATES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RESOLUTION”**

**NEW YORK**

**6 DECEMBER 2018**

**(Check against delivery)**

**Mr. President,**

1. I congratulate you on the assumption of Cote d'Ivoire to the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of December 2018 and thank you for organizing the debate on the important topic of the role of States, regional organizations and the United Nations in conflict prevention and resolution.
2. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for their insightful briefings.
3. My delegation aligns itself with the Statement to be delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

**Mr. President,**

4. Namibia is currently the Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Within the United Nations (UN) framework, we are working towards having sub-regional dialogues and briefings with UN Agencies. These allow for greater learning opportunities for the countries of the region, as well as frank and open dialogue and greater cooperation. We encourage other sub-regional organizations to conduct similar meetings to strengthen cooperation and coherence between sub-regional organizations and the UN.
5. There is a longstanding cooperation that exists between the UN and SADC on electoral partnership initiatives. In April this year, the UN and SADC successfully held a joint Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections (BRIDGE) regional training workshop on gender and elections. The workshop aimed to provide electoral stakeholders with the opportunity to explore the role of women in electoral and political processes in the SADC region and address ways of enhancing women's participation in these processes. We look forward to the holding of further workshops on this and other important issues for the region.
6. SADC plays an important role in maintaining peace and security in the region. In Lesotho, the SADC Preventative Mission has generated a stable and secure environment which now paves the way for the implementation of constitutional and institutional reforms as recommended by SADC. Crucial elections will be held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in less

than a month's time. These elections will mark an important step for the country, the region and the continent. The DRC's contribution to the region is important to the region's social and economic developments. Both the African Union (AU) and SADC are actively cooperating and monitoring to ensure that peaceful and successful polls will be held.

**Mr. President,**

7. The Open Debate held last month in this Chamber on "Strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa" highlighted the expanding cooperation taking place between the UN and the AU in terms of peacekeeping operations. Many delegations, including Namibia, singled out the *Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security* signed in April 2017. This framework provides guidance for deepening cooperation between the two organizations at all levels in peace and security. Numerous Security Council resolutions have also underscored the important UN-AU partnership in terms of peacekeeping cooperation. Delegations also mentioned the successful partnership the two organizations have undertaken in Somalia with AMISOM and in Darfur with UNAMID.
8. Your country, Mr. President, also provides us with an excellent example of successful cooperation and working relationship between the UN, the AU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The successful ending of the peacekeeping operation – United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) – in June 2017 demonstrates this.

**Mr. President,**

9. African-led Peace Support Operations, authorized by the Security Council, are an essential and vital component in ensuring peace and security on the African continent. Given Africa's decision taken at the highest level to take financial responsibility of 25% of its peace activities, which bears further witness to its unflinching commitment to secure peace in the continent, and the fact that of more than half of the top twenty countries contributing troops to UN peacekeeping operations are Africa, Namibia fully supports the call by the AU and the African Members of the Security Council for these AU-led Peace Support Operations authorized by the Security Council to have access to UN assessed contributions, on a case by case basis. This would ensure sustainable and predictable financing for these operations, vital for their success.

**Mr. President,**

10. In the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security held recently, we recognized that progress has been made in the implementation of resolution 1325 since the adoption of the resolution 18 years ago, however Member States underscored that much still remains to be done. Women need to play a greater role in peacekeeping operations, in mediation and negotiations and in the post-conflict and peacebuilding phases. Namibia is playing its part: in the past month, we achieved the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' target of 15% of women participating in peacekeeping missions. In January, 15 police officers, including 3 women, will be deployed to the UN-AU Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

11. Furthermore, in the lead up to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325, Namibia will host the third capital-based Focal Point Network Meeting in Windhoek in April next year – the first of its kind on the continent. All member states and civil society are invited to participate.

**I thank you.**