



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**

**ON THE QUESTION OF EQUITABLE  
REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND  
OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL  
(AGENDA 124)**

**AT THE SECOND INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
NEGOTIATIONS MEETING**

**NEW YORK  
1-2 May 2019  
(Check against delivery)**

**Distinguished Co-Chairs,  
Excellencies,**

1. I take the floor to join colleagues in expressing our appreciation to you for convening the fourth Intergovernmental Negotiations on the reform of the UN Security Council in 2019. I also wish to thank the Co-Chairs, the distinguished Permanent Representatives of Luxembourg and the United Arab Emirates, respectively for steering our work.

**Co-Chairs,**

2. My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Union Member States.
3. Namibia fully appreciates the repeated calls by a number of Member States for greater African representation in a reformed Security Council, which underscores the overwhelming support that the Common African Position continues to enjoy from the majority of the UN membership.
4. In this regard, I wish to express heartfelt gratitude to the Chair of the L69 for her unequivocal expression of support on behalf of her Group for the Common African Position as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. I also wish to put on record my delegation's profound appreciation for PR Rhonda King and her Group's support for the call of the African Group that the African Position be properly reflected in the Co-Chairs record of the negotiations and that the Common African Position be attached as an annex to the outcome document.
5. I further wish to put on record the same appreciation to the PR of India who spoke on behalf the G4 in support of the call that the African Common Position be reflected in the outcome document and that the full text as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration be attached in an annex to the anticipated outcome document.
6. Co-Chairs, my delegation wishes once again to express its appreciation to so many member states for their genuine expression of support for the need to undo the injustice to Africa as the only region not represented in the Permanent category of the Security Council. To help us all to be on the same page in terms of our understanding of what delegations mean when they express their support for the African Common position, allow me to clarify what the crux of the African Common Position entails: The Common African Position is contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. These documents have been adopted by the African Union. This position inter

alia demands for “*not less than two permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership including the right of veto; five non-permanent seats. In that regard, even though Africa is opposed in principle to the veto, it is of the view that so long as it exists, and as a matter of common justice, it should be made available to all permanent members of the Security Council*”. For further clarification, may I point out that when we say 5 seats in the non- permanent category, we mean that in addition to the existing 3 seats already held by Africa, Africa is seeking 2 additional seats, bringing the total to 5 in that category to allow for more equitable regional representation.

7. There is however one issue I need to get of my chest. With due respect to well meaning suggestions by some colleagues, who hold the view that under their proposal, Africa will be best represented. I beg to differ with this view as I do not believe that quantity equates to quality. I believe Best is not supposed to be determined by quantity, rather the best representation for Africa should be determined by the quality of membership. We can not deny the fact that as it is now, the Veto is the defining element of quality. Therefore, may I respectfully appeal to well-intentioned efforts to assist Africa in her pursuit of justice and equitable representation. Dear colleagues, please resist the temptation to surmise what some may deem the best for Africa. I would like to suggest that such well-intentioned ideas be discussed with the African Group represented by the C-10 first so that sensitivities around this matter can be better appreciated and understood. My delegation stands ready to work with delegations.

### **Co-Chairs,**

8. I wish to assure you that Namibia will continue to engage in consultations with all interest groups who support the Common African Position and those whose views are alike on this issue as well as those whose perspectives are incongruent to the position we hold so dearly. Through regular consultations in an atmosphere of fairness and understanding, Namibia is hopeful that the areas of convergence would be identified and broadened.
9. Namibia wishes to firmly state that the rollover decision of this session should be based on the documents of the IGN including the Framework Document of 2015 and the elements of convergence of 2016 and the Revised Elements of Commonality and issues for further consideration document of 2018.
10. In conclusion, Namibia is committed to Decision 62/557 and calls for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council which takes into consideration the inter-linkages of the five clusters.

11. I wish to reiterate that the world has changed since the establishment of the Security Council and the end of the cold war. We should therefore, reform the Security Council to reflect the new realities of today. And we should do so in good faith.

I thank you.