



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations

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## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**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 “UNITED NATIONS  
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: WOMEN IN  
PEACEKEEPING”**

**NEW YORK**

**11 APRIL 2019**

**(Check against delivery)**

**Mr. President,**

1. I congratulate you on the assumption of Germany to the Presidency of the Security Council for the month of April.
2. I would also like to thank the various briefers for their detailed and comprehensive statements.
3. My delegation also aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representation of Canada, on behalf of the Group of Friends on Women Peace and Security.

**Mr. President,**

4. In May 2000, the first deliberations of the Women, Peace and Security agenda took place, giving birth to the Windhoek Declaration. At the time, Namibia realized that the international community needed to properly take into account the role of women, as serious stakeholders in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, decision making and mediation. The Windhoek Declaration thus formed the basis for the drafting of resolution 1325. In October 2000, Namibia was President of the Security Council and successfully oversaw the unanimous adoption of the historic 1325 resolution. Our desire at the time was, in essence, to see more women in peacekeeping, decision-making and negotiation positions at both the national and international level. Resolution 1325 formally drew global attention to the unrecognized, under-utilized and under-valued contributions of women in preventing war, building peace and engaging individuals and societies to live in harmony.
5. National Action Plans (NAP) are the embodiment of resolution 1325. These Plans are vital. They are a tool for States to implement their commitments to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and to detail their actions and obligations under the Security Council Women, Peace and Security resolutions. As of November 2018, 79 Member States had NAPs. While we

recognise that many Member States are implementing resolution 1325 without NAPs, we encourage them to set up NAPs which ensure structured implementation, follow-up and evaluation of Resolution 1325.

6. Namibia's National Action Plan (NAP) is forward looking and incorporates emerging issues, trends and threats to peace and security, such as climate change, cyber security, and trafficking in persons, while also looking at how these issues impact the overall women, peace and security agenda. The effective implementation of, and accountability for, the NAP requires a Monitoring and Evaluation plan and a robust co-ordination mechanism. The Namibian Government will ensure that a Monitoring and Evaluation plan and regular reporting is undertaken and documented to realize the objectives of the plan.

**Mr. President,**

7. In the aftermath of the adoption of resolution 1325, we saw a shift towards a growing awareness and a move towards mainstreaming the involvement of women in areas related to peace and security. The 2018 report of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security noted the "increase in the number of women deployed as contingent commanders", as well as the fact that several missions have female police and military peacekeeper networks, and military and police gender advisers. Despite this, the representation of women among military troops and police officers remains unacceptably low, at 4 and 10%, respectively. The report also issues a stark warning: these numbers are at risk of further decreasing in the coming years through the imminent downsizing of several peacekeeping missions.

**Mr. President,**

8. Namibia is playing its part in ensuring that women play a greater role in peacekeeping operations. The Namibian Police Officers, Correctional Officers and Military officers are currently deployed

in 3 peacekeeping missions: the African Union/United Nations Hybrids Operation for Darfur (**UNAMID**), the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (**UNMISS**) and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (**UNISFA**), among which Namibia has continued deploying qualified female officers. In December 2018, we achieved the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' target of 15% of women participating in peacekeeping missions. We encourage all police and troop-contributing Member States to strive to achieve this minimum target.

**Mr. President,**

9. Namibia is currently hosting the third Women, Peace and Security Focal Point Network meeting. The discussions have focused on four sub themes:
  - The WPS Agenda, Disarmament and Small Arms and Light Weapons;
  - National Action Plans (Coordination, Monitoring & Evaluation, Financing)
  - WPS Implementation and the Role of Sub-regional and regional Organisations; and
  - Peace Lab for youth leaders – tackling the participation for women and youth.

A communiqué on this meeting will be circulated to all Missions at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Mr. President,**

10. I am happy to announce that Namibia intends to establish a Women's Peace Center, which will focus on national, regional and international conflict resolution and management activities, as well as aspects of mediation and negotiations. The Center will further focus on capacity building by providing workshops and pre-deployment training for peacekeepers, while contributing to the maintenance of peace in general. In this regard, we call upon

the international community and our developing partners to support the establishment of the Center.

11. To conclude, I would like to remind Members that next year, the international community will celebrate a number of landmarks: the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325. In the lead up to these anniversaries, I encourage Member States to take stock of the limited progress that has been achieved and to look to the future. These anniversaries should be an opportunity for all of us to redouble our efforts to ensure that women are adequately represented in peacekeeping, decision-making and negotiation positions at both the national and international level, as was our desire in 2000 when resolution 1325 was adopted.

**I thank you.**