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STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

74TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL

ASSEMBLY

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND DECOLONISATION

COMMITTEE ON THE AGENDA ITEM 53:

“COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SPECIAL POLITICAL

MISSIONS”

NEW YORK
8 November 2019

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

1. My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to thank you for convening the meeting on item 53 entitled: “**Comprehensive Review of Special Political Missions**”.
2. My delegation takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, as contained in document A/74/338 entitled: “**Overall Policy Matters Pertaining to Special Political Missions**”, which highlights the efforts made towards improving expertise and effectiveness, transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender perspectives. Namibia holds a very special place for women’s equal participation in the peace building processes.
3. At the heart of conflict, most often, are issues of political discord. My delegation therefor appreciates that Special Political Missions have always championed efforts to maintain international peace and security through mediation in regional conflicts and inter-communal tensions, which is at the centre of the United Nations.
4. In 2020, the Republic of Namibia will proudly stand to testify as the product of a Special Political Mission providing the necessary support to overcome a conflict situation, when we will celebrate our 30th year of Independence since the **United Nations Transition Assistance**

Group (UNTAG), a United Nations peacekeeping force was deployed from April 1989 to March 1990 in Namibia to monitor the peace process and elections there.

5. The Namibian case is a clear testimony that national and international efforts have more success when genuine dialogue, instead of conflict and violence takes place. In this regard, we strongly support the establishment of Special Political Missions to fully carry out their mandates, and we remain eternally appreciative of their efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

6. The unprecedented fatalities of men and women as a result of armed conflict and other forms of violence continue to rob, most notable, developing countries of significant talent, skills and resources in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals and targets. We should never forget that in maintaining international peace and security, peacekeepers often pay the highest price and that the loss of any life is a loss to a family, a community and indeed to all of us.

7. We cannot over emphasize the importance of including women and the youth in dialogue and mediation in the political processes. The inclusion of women and youth is not an option, but an imperative as women and youth are not merely observers to conflict, and therefore cannot be reduced to spectators to building peace efforts.

Mr. Chairperson,

8. Political commitment to Special Political Missions is not enough. We therefore kindly call on all Member States to continue to fulfil their financial contributions to the organization as this is critical to sustaining the efforts of these Missions. Lack of, or late payment hampers the implementation of any resolutions we pass here, and only serves to further destroy the socio-economic foundations of the affected regions.
9. In order to navigate the increasingly complex environments that Special Political Missions have to operate in, my delegation cannot understate the critical role regional organisations have to play when strengthening the efforts of these Missions. When countries take ownership of the unrest affecting a member of their regional grouping, the community is more likely to find political solutions which will lead to lasting peace.

10. To support the efforts aimed at achieving the effectiveness of Special Political Mission, my delegation wishes to highlight the importance of focusing on conflict prevention, mediation peace making and peacebuilding, through preventive diplomacy, including addressing the root causes of violent conflicts in the pursuit of achieving sustainable development and preservation of human rights.
11. As I close, allow for a moment allow to dwell on the importance of the preservation and safeguarding of human rights in conflict situations. The relations between Human Rights and conflict resolution is complementary with the one advancing the other. The protection of human rights provide neutral ground that can help to resolve disputes as they ought to be upheld irrespective of the discourse. Thus a political settlement, embedded in human right can help to make solutions more durable.

Mr. Chairperson,

12. Lastly, my delegation wishes to pay tribute to the Special Representatives and Special Envoys, and to the dedicated United Nations staff and affiliated personnel serving in special political missions who often work under difficult situations to ensure the realization of the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you.