



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations

135 East 36th Street, New York, NY 10016

Tel: (212) 685-2003 . Fax: (212) 685- 1561 . E-mail: namibia@un.int

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. MR. NEVILLE GERTZE

AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

**ON THE QUESTION OF THE EQUITABLE
REPRESENTATION ON THE INCREASE IN THE
MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND
OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL
(AGENDA ITEM 122)
GENERAL DEBTE**

**NEW YORK
25 NOVEMBER 2019**

Madam Vice-President,

1. I take the floor to join colleagues in expressing our appreciation to you for convening the General Debate on Agenda Item 122 on the Question of Equitable Representation on the Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council, ahead of the forthcoming Intergovernmental Negotiations.
2. My delegation joins others in recognizing the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, a cause that Namibia fully supports.
3. I align my statement to that delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, on behalf of the African Member States, and I would like to add the following in our national capacity.

Madam Vice-President,

4. Many colleagues who have spoken here this morning have eloquently contrasted the UN of today as opposed to the UN that was established nearly 75 years ago. The undeniable reality is that the world we live in today is vastly different in virtually every aspect then it was 75 years ago. So much has changed and so many developments have taken place. The global population has nearly tripled in size since the 1950's, bringing with it the need to exploit, utilize and ultimately putting so much more strain on so much more of the planet's resources.
5. The world has seen the end of the Cold War and the birth of new and independent nations, following the end of colonialism, save for a few last unresolved cases where struggles to exercise inalienable rights to self determination and independence are still outstanding. Global political power balances have altered, science and technology have evolved by leaps and bounds and with it innovation, communication and people to people interaction and contact are today at near supersonic speed.
6. Yes, as the Greek Philosopher Heraclitis so aptly reminded us in his famous quote: "change is the only constant in life" change has indeed taken and continues to take place every day of our lives. And over all this time and despite all these developments, the unavoidable change that is required to

bring the UN Security Council of yester-year in step with modern day realities and demands have remained elusive.

Madam Vice-President,

7. For us to realize this long-overdue objective, we need determination and commitment on the part of each and every member of this Assembly of Nations to act in the collective interest of us all. We have witnessed winds of change in our lifetime and we know that aspirations of people cannot be suppressed indefinitely. That is how and why youth movements together with the use and impact of social media have become such powerful agents of change. Let us not contribute nor give credence to the image and impression out there that we are all talk and no action, or as some young people say “No Action - Talk Only”, because we have been talking now for more than 40 years about the need to reform the Security Council, and yet we have little to show for all the talking we have been doing so far.
8. In his statement before the General Assembly 3 months ago here in this very hall, the President of Namibia stated that next year, the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations will present an opportunity to conclude the reform of the United Nations Security Council. In order to reposition the Security Council to effectively address the new and emerging challenges of international peace and security, we need to conclude the Inter-Governmental Negotiation process.
9. In this respect, Namibia reiterates the *African Common Position on Security Council Reform* as articulated in Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration and extends appreciation to those member states that have embraced the African Common Position.
10. Namibia continues to call for greater African representation in a reformed Security Council, as espoused by the Common African Position, which continues to enjoy wider support from the majority of the UN Member states.
11. As we have repeatedly stated, the support for Africa should be based on the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, as adopted by the African Union. This position calls 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”.

12. In this regard, my delegation welcomes with great delight and appreciation the unequivocal support for the Common African Position contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration put on record by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany on behalf of the Group of Four (G4) countries and by the Distinguished Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines on behalf of the L.69 group of 42 countries. We welcome the recent NAM Summit in Azerbaijan's support for the African Common Position. Namibia also welcomes the Summit decision of the 15 member Caricom Heads of State to support the Common African Position as reflected in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.
13. That said, we are cognizant that the support for Africa's representation in the permanent category of the Security Council still remains general amongst a few member states.
14. We believe that the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, next year would be a golden opportunity for all of us to reflect and take concrete steps to ensure a reformed United Nations Security Council, reflective of the realities of the 21st Century. We therefore hope to see considerable progress through the IGN process in 2020. I further call on all of us to redouble our efforts, to work to ensure meaningful progress, and deliver tangible results that will be to the benefit of all.
15. Namibia wishes to reaffirm that the rollover decision of this sessions should be based on the Framework Document of 2015. As already stated by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone on behalf of all the African Member States, the African Group regards the Framework Document produced in the 69th Session as the main reference document of the IGN. It was populated by 120 Member states. It reflects the entirety of the Common African position on all the five clusters accurately and importantly it is not a document that is based on the understanding and interpretation of an individual or any group of Member States.

16. In conclusion, Namibia is committed to a comprehensive reform which will see to it that the historical injustice against Africa is rectified. Noting that with the exception of a very small number of member states that have yet to express themselves in full support of the Common African position, my delegation is confident that this can be done with the broadest possible support from the larger membership of the United Nations.

17. We hope, Mr. President, that you will soon appoint the co-facilitator to lead the Intergovernmental Negotiation process in 2020.

I thank you.