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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**AMBASSADOR & PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

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

**ASSEMBLY**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND DECOLONISATION**

**COMMITTEE ON THE AGENDA ITEM 57:**

**“COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SPECIAL POLITICAL**

**MISSIONS”**

**NEW YORK**  
**5 NOVEMBER 2018**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

1. At the outset, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for convening the meeting on agenda item 57 entitled: ***“Comprehensive review of Special Political Missions”***.
2. Let me also take the opportunity to thank the Under-Secretary-Generals for Political Affairs and for Field Support for their briefings on Special Political Missions.
3. My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.
4. My delegation takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, as contained in document A/73/337 entitled: ***“Overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions”***, which illuminates the efforts made ~~for~~ towards improving expertise and effectiveness, transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender perspectives and women’s equal participation.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

5. Armed conflict and other forms of violence continue to see increased and unprecedented fatalities among innocent civilians, especially amongst the young, old and most vulnerable in such conflicts. These fatalities also do not spare, including our dedicated men and women serving in Special Political Missions and those that provide support in remote and most insecure environments. Any loss of life is devastating to their loved-ones and indeed to all of us. We note, nonetheless that It-it is mostly developing countries that

pay the ultimate prize, thus robbing them from talented people, skills and resources preventing them from which otherwise could be assisting in achieving the ~~ambitious~~-2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals and targets, ~~by extension.~~

6. Despite the complexities manifested by regionalized conflicts and inter-communal tensions, my delegation ~~believes~~ appreciates that the Special Political Missions, since its existence, have always been at the center of the United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security.
7. ~~It goes without saying, that the~~ Special Political Missions provide support to host countries to overcome conflict situations and advance national efforts for sustainable peace, particularly in areas such as national reconciliation and reconstruction, electoral assistance, constitution and decision-making and, the rule of law. Such national efforts have more success when genuine dialogue, instead of conflict and violence takes place. The importance of including women in such dialogues cannot be over-emphasised. Suffice it to say, the participation of women in dialogue and mediation in the political processes, as witnessed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Burundi, to mention a few, must be applauded.
8. As the Secretary-General has mentioned in his report, contained in document A/73/337, the Special Political Missions, undeniably, plays an important role in the execution of its mandate, under the auspices of the Security Council and the General Assembly. These actions are primarily predicated on the elements of preventing violent conflicts and, to sustain peace through inclusive political solutions and arrangements. ~~And~~ In this regard, we strongly support the establishment of Special Political Missions to fully carry out their mandates, we are hugely appreciative of their efforts.

9. I have no doubt that the ongoing reform and strengthening of the United Nations system, particularly the restructuring of the peace and security architecture, would support Special Political Missions to better deliver ~~and deliver as one and as a whole of one~~ on their mandates~~,-~~. This in turn would thereby driving greatly benefit our collective endeavors for achieving the sustainable development goals and sustainable peace by 2030 and beyond. I urge all Member States to render their unqualified support to the Secretary-General's call.

9.10.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

10.11. ~~Let a~~ Allow me to highlight a few, but pertinent issues that requires our commitments to support all efforts aimed at achieving the effectiveness of Special Political Missions. And in this regard, my delegation wishes to reiterates the following three points:

Firstly, developmental prospects ~~can are undoubtedly be~~ affected by armed conflicts and other forms of violence. Therefore, it is essential to continue focusing attention on conflict prevention, mediation, peacemaking and peacebuilding, through preventive diplomacy, including addressing the root causes of violent conflicts in the pursuit of achieving sustainable development and the preservation of human rights;

Secondly, global conflicts are increasingly complex and persistent, and the international community's ability to respond is diminished when we work in silos. Therefore, to ensure the success of the Special Political Missions, the United Nations and the African Union should continue to work closely together towards enhancing and mutually reinforcing strong strategic

partnerships, at all levels. Such close collaboration and coordination are the most effective ways in support of efforts ~~to~~ at achieving economic development and ensuring durable peace; and

Thirdly, ~~the~~ since the adoption of Resolution 1325, Special Political Missions have ~~particularly also~~ been involved in efforts to promote women's participation in conflict resolution and prevention. ~~since the adoption of resolution 1325. This, h~~ We welcome this, but there is need for ~~however makes it incumbent on~~ all Member States to significantly increase the participation and role of women in peacemaking and peacebuilding processes ~~as set out in resolution 1325.~~ My delegation also believes that much more needs to be done to ~~including~~ include the engagement of the youth in ~~a~~ well-structured and inclusive political dialogues. ~~as it pertains to the latter aspects, to say the last, but not least.~~

~~11.12.~~ I should, however, add that such noble endeavors would require ~~enables in terms of mobilizing~~ adequate, predictable and sustainable funding to Special Political Missions, including the imperative to transition toward more inclusive policies that can ensure equal and equitable access to natural resources, basic services, security, justice, democracy and good governance, which remains the primary role of the host country. It is about investing in human capital development and the like.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

~~12.13.~~ As an African country, founded on the principles of democracy and the rule of law, Namibia fully endorses the AU Agenda 2063, which depicts “The Africa We Want” objective and desire. To this end, and in pursuit of our collective effort to place Africa on a sustainable path of peace, we have

decided to Silence the Guns by 2020. This in itself is a contribution to general disarmament and international security. It is important to view disarmament not only in terms of nuclear and chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, but also in terms of small and light arms weapons, which are causing misery and undermining peace and stability in the global South.

~~13.~~14.In closing, I wish to leave you with the personal conviction of ~~Namibia's~~ the founding President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, who solemnly reminds us “that our common goals and objective are achievable, because a people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of society, will always emerge victorious”.In this way, we will be ~~thereby~~ leaving no one behind.

**I thank you for your attention.**