



MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

NAMIBIA AND ALGERIA SIGNS 7 COOPERATION BILATERAL INSTRUMENTS



Namibia and Algeria signed seven bilateral cooperation instruments covering several sectors during the Inaugural Session of the Joint Commission of Cooperation between the countries that took place from 23 to 24 October 2017, in Algiers.

The following are the instruments that were signed by the Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and her counterpart Honourable Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of Foreign Affairs and The Legal Instruments of Algeria:

1. Memorandum of Understanding on the Mutual Visa Exemption for the holders of Diplomatic or Official (Service) passports;
2. Agreement on Trade Cooperation;
3. Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural cooperation;
4. Memorandum of Understanding of cooperation in the field of Vocational training;
5. Memorandum of Understanding on Sports;
6. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Moudjahidine and the Department of the Veteran Affairs; and
7. Letter of Intent for Cooperation in the field of Water Resources.

NAMIBIA AND ALGERIA SIGNS 7 COOPERATION BILATERAL INSTRUMENTS

During the visit Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, underlined the excellent and longstanding relations between the two countries, marked by their common struggle for freedom and dignity as well as for the ideals of peace and justice.

During the discussions, both sides agreed that Algeria and Namibia share the same positions on many international issues and are pleased with the regular consultations between the two countries and the convergence of their views on the main regional and international issues.

This Inaugural Session of the Joint Commission of Cooperation was an opportunity to give new impetus to cooperation between the two countries in various areas. A point of emphasis that was stressed on both sides was the need to explore the huge potentials of the two countries to improve the business climate and further enhance cooperation up to the excellent level of the political relations between the two nations.

Both sides invited economic operators of both countries to seize business opportunities in each side to open new prospects for cooperation as Algeria and Namibia seek to boost their relations up to a level commensurate with our potentialities and our ambitions for a prosperous future.

At the end of the work, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah expressed her satisfaction with the results of this commission, underlining that the two countries need to work together by sharing their experiences to ensure a better integration of the continent through notably, the peaceful settlement of conflicts.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister further pointed out that Algeria has the role of leadership in Africa for its efforts in the settlement of conflicts as Algeria has spared no effort for the settlement of disagreements and brings its support to the issues of decolonization and the peoples' right to self-determination.

Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah in reference to Namibia and Algeria joint position on the situation of the People of Western Sahara, expressed that "it is impossible to reach progress without reaching peace and stability," adding that all the citizens of Africa must enjoy their right to self-determination.

In paying tribute to the late President Ahmed Ben Bella and to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Deputy Prime Minister stressed that Algeria has always had an important role in the fight against colonization and apartheid.

Both Hon. Minister Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Minister Abdelkader Messahel stressed the importance of ensuring that these signed agreements are implemented.

AU MINISTERIAL FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2063 A SUCCESS



Namibia has called on African Union (AU) Member States to redouble efforts to implement Agenda 2063 for the benefit of the people of the continent, particularly women and children.

Honorable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, made this call at the opening ceremony of a successful two-day Meeting of the African Union Ministerial Follow-Up Committee on the Implementation of the Agenda 2063 hosted by Namibia on the 12th to the 13th October.

In her opening remarks, the DPM and Minister said: “Until now, the focus of Member States has been on the domestication and establishing the relevant structures and policy documents to guide our work. Much discussion has also taken place to understand what is expected of Member States, the Commission and other relevant stakeholders to make our continental vision a reality,”

The Ministerial Follow-up Committee was established in January 2014, and its membership was renewed in January 2016.

AGENDA 2063 MEETING A SUCCESS

Agenda 2063



THE AFRICA WE WANT



Honorable Nandi-Ndaitwah expressed optimism that the incoming Committee Members when the term of office of the current Member States expires in January 2018, will take the Agenda 2063 process to a higher level by incorporating goals into strategic plans to make a real impact in the lives of all Africans.

The 9th Joint Annual Ministerial Meetings held in April 2016 in Addis Ababa, co-organised by the AUC and UNECA, recommended the streamlining of Agenda 2063, and to align their goals, priority areas, targets and indicators at the international, continental, regional and national levels.

“In Namibia, the goals and priority areas of these Agendas have been integrated in the Fifth National Development Plan, spearheaded by the Ministry of Economic Planning and the National Planning Commission. Our national policies such Vision 2030, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (2016-2020), and sectoral Strategic Plans also speak to the aspirations, goals and priority areas contained in Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030,” Honorable Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

She noted that the implementation of the 13 Flagship Projects that fall within the First Ten Implementation Plan, 2014 to 2023, necessitates decisive actions to ensure financing despite the challenging economic and financial times facing the continent and the rest of the world.

Some of the Flagship Projects include the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area; the Free Movement of Persons and the African Passport; Silencing the Guns; the Formulation and Implementation of the AU Commodities Strategy; as well as the Establishment of a Single Air Transport Market.

The DPM and Minister said: “There has been progress made on most of the Flagship Projects, but according to the Report of the Commission, there seems to be some bottlenecks that this Committee Meeting would need to address.”

She called on all stakeholders to meet the deadlines of the relevant projects, and to put together greater effort on those that are proving to be more challenging to implement.

Considerations made of presentations at the October 12 and 13 Meeting will form the basis for the Committee’s Report to the next Session of the Executive Council in January 2018.

The meeting was attended by member of the committee from different African countries namely, Algeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Africa and host Namibia.

NAMIBIA CALLS FOR AN INCLUSIVE UN SECURITY COUNCIL



His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, reiterated Namibia's position for Africa to be included in the United Nations Security Council, at the 72nd United Nations General Assembly in New York, United States of America.

His Excellency Geingob said that the United Nations matters most, because it is at the center of the needs and desires of humanity.

"Therefore, it must be inclusive by including Africa at the highest decision making level. By failing to do this, the UN stands at risk of losing its respectability. The only sure way to restore trust in the UN will be for the Security Council to become more inclusive", he said.

The Assembly was held under the theme: "Focusing on people: striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet."

"It is only through unity, that we will bring about a world free from hunger and poverty. It is only through unity, that we will deliver a sustainable planet for our children and their children", His Excellency the President of Namibia said.

He highlighted the importance of development that reaches all people in an equitable manner. "Growing income disparities, between nations and within nations, poses the greatest threat for peace within countries and globally," he said, stressing that as long as there's poverty and income inequality in Namibia, lasting peace and social justice would not be achieved.

President Geingob also noted Namibia's support of gender equality and the importance of including women and girls in development, as well as the youth.

"We, in Namibia, believe that gender equity is equally important for a stable and harmonious society," he added, recognizing also the contribution of women in promoting global peace.

He also expressed the importance of seeing Africa as an "important and equal partner of the international community, with a contribution to make, instead of only a source of primary commodities".

President Geingob informed the Assembly that Namibia was committed to supporting the UN to achieve global peace. Therefore, he encouraged his counterparts to be more tolerant by embracing diverse views through dialogue and understanding, before hastily embarking on a path of force, which will only lead to conflict and eventually war.

The President was accompanied by DMP and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

NAMIBIA'S VOTE ON R2P AT UN WAS ON PROCEDURE



The Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation has noticed misinformation and misrepresentation on Namibia's procedural vote in the General Committee meeting that took place on Friday, 15 September 2017.

Subsequently, and as a matter of clarity, the Ministry wishes to inform that procedurally, every item on the agenda of the General Assembly is first considered in the General Committee, which is composed of member states based on equitable geographic representation. The issue was discussed in the General Committee and due to disagreement was put to a vote. If and when the Committee cannot agree on whether or not to include the item on the Agenda of the General Assembly, the matter is then taken to the General Assembly to be resolved. The vote on whether or not to include the Item on the Agenda of the General Assembly was taken on Friday, 15 September 2017, and Namibia voted against the procedure.

Namibia, like many other member states, is concerned that this concept could be used to apply intervention by circumventing the UN Security Council, which has the mandate as per the UN Charter to 'maintain international peace and security.' Furthermore, to date, there is no legal instrument in place to back R2P. The United Nations relies on Human Rights Council and other international mechanisms to deal with issues of gross human rights abuses, war crimes and genocide.

What took place on Friday was a vote to include or exclude the concept on "The responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crime, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity" in the Agenda of the 72nd General Assembly Session. It was not a vote against the essence of the concept as such. It was a procedural vote. Subsequently, the item will now be discussed during the 72nd Session and a substantive resolution might be introduced. Namibia will express her views and position on this issue, during that debate, and will then decide on how to vote depending on the content of the resolution.

Namibia remains committed to defend human rights and to end human suffering, but through globally supported and internationally recognized multilateral bodies and institutions. We support the premise of the Responsibility to Protect, but through the UN Security Council.

PORTUGAL-NAMIBIA BILATERAL RELATIONS SOUND



The outgoing Ambassador of Portugal to Namibia, Her Excellency, Ms Isabela Brilhante Pedrosa has described the promotion, learning and teaching of the Portuguese language as a foreign language in the education system and to the Namibian Police as one of the highlight during her term in Namibia.

The outgoing Diplomat pledged her country's commitment to preserve the Portuguese vessel from the 16th century in the town of Oranjemund in Southern Namibia, for history and tourism purpose.

The Ambassador, whose tenure was for a year left Namibia at the end of September to take up a new assignment as the EU Ambassador to Venezuela.

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The Portuguese Diplomat made the remarks during the farewell courtesy call on the Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, on Thursday, 21 September 2017.

The Deputy Minister thanked the Ambassador for her contribution to the strengthening of friendship between the two countries and its people. He wished the Ambassador well in her new posting.

The Portuguese Diplomat made the remarks during the farewell courtesy call on the Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

RUSSIAN COMPANY, UNITED WAGON COMPANY VISITS MIRCO



A delegation from the Russian Company called United Wagon Company (UWC), which is one of the largest companies specializing in cargo, freight and passenger wagons in Russia and Eastern Europe, paid courtesy call on Honourable Maureen Hinda, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, on 02 October 2017.

The visit was aimed at strengthening economic cooperation between Namibia and the Russian Federation.

Picture: Front: Honourable Maureen Hinda, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation and Mr. Maxim Kuzemchengo, CEO of United Wagon Company Trade House. Mr. Kuzemchengo was accompanied by the Deputy Director for Export Projects, Andrei Orzhebowski (left) as well as (second from behind -right) Ivan Loparev, Director for Exports Projects.

LETTER OF CREDENTIALS



Mr Valery Utkin, Ambassador-Designate of the Russian Federation to Namibia presented Copy of his Letters of Credentials to Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, on Thursday, 21 September 2017.

CANADA CELEBRATES 150TH ANNIVERSARY



Her Excellency Ms. Sandra McCardell, High Commissioner of Canada to Namibia, paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation in Windhoek on Thursday (14 September).

The main purpose of High Commissioner's visit to Namibia was to come and host a National Day Reception to celebrate Canada's 150th Anniversary.

The two parties also exchanged views on bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest between Namibia and Canada, including among others, Mining, fisheries and Climate Change.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER & MIRCO MINISTER PAYS TRIBUTE TO KUNENE GOVERNOR



“During my many years of interaction with her, professionally and personally, I came to know Comrade Muharukua as selfless, assertive and principled person, who was always on the side of the most vulnerable.

Working with Comrade Muharukua at the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare, where she served as the Deputy Minister under me, I found her to be a resourceful and pleasant person to work with.

She always used to say that she learnt a lot from me, but as it turns out, I have equally learnt as much from her.

We worked as a team and her wisdom has made a great contribution to the output of the Ministry.

I remember assigning her to lead a delegation to an international conference, and she argued that she was just an uneducated Himba woman, and therefore could not attend an international conference.

However on my insistence, she then attended the conference, accompanied by an interpreter, and came back more empowered, and confident to learn, especially the official language. The rest is history, as we know.

I have lost a Comrade and a close friend, and her inspiration will continue to be my strength.

As a nation we have lost a defender of justice.

May the Hero’s life Rest in Eternal Peace.”

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation

MIRCO SPORTS

MIRCO's soccer and netball teams participated in the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, Battle of All tournament in Windhoek on 30th September 2017. Both teams made it to the quarter finals.



Congratulations



International Relations and Cooperation

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