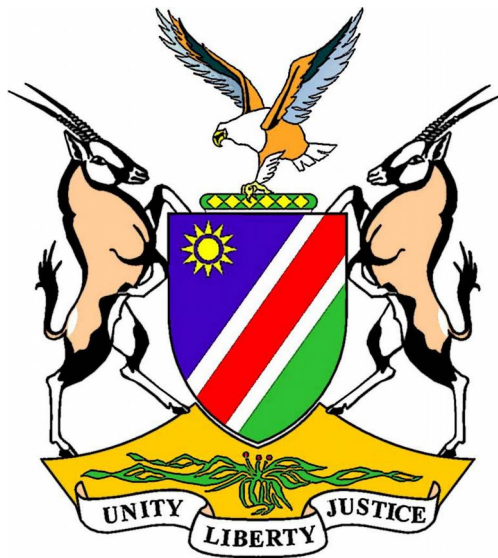


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE ROYAL J.K. UI/O//OO, MP, DEPUTY
MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY**

AT THE

HIGH LEVEL EXPERT SEMINAR ON INDIGENOUS FOOD SYSTEMS

7TH NOVEMBER 2018

ROME, ITALY

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

**DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL
ORGANIZATION (FAO) - JOSEGRAZIANO DA SILVA**

YOUR EXCELLENCIES PRESENT HERE TODAY

HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS

CFS CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

Director of proceedings

I am very grateful to be given this opportunity, The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

Through its Vision 2030, The Government of the Republic of Namibia envisions itself as a hunger free nation by 2025. The Government of Namibia has commenced with domesticating the SDGs and institutionalizing the Zero Hunger Objective. Namibia has already demonstrated its commitment as a

signatory to the African Union's Malabo Declaration to end hunger in Africa by 2025; the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in its Vision 2030.

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In 2005 the Republic of Namibia established a marginalized community's socio-economic integration program for the San, Ovaherero and Ovatjimba communities of Namibia.

The lion share of the annual funding goes to the Marginalized Communities Feeding program covering 110 000 beneficiaries on a monthly basis. The Harambee Prosperity Plan calls on eradication of Hunger Poverty and thus calls on Zero Hunger in Namibia.

The promotion of Indigenous Food Systems should consider global efforts of controlling climate change for food sustainability. The Marginalized Communities of Namibia has endless indigenous knowledge in sourcing, preparing and preserving food for sustainability and long term use. They have mastered the art of surviving toughest imaginable living conditions and also transferred this ancestral knowledge to

their generations, but today these knowledge is threatened by modernization and standardization practices being perceived as either primitive, unhygienic or unacceptable. The Indigenous food systems varies globally and these calls upon the harmonization of the Indigenous food systems with modern food technologies or systems.

Director of proceedings

I urge all participants to work together in bringing about sustainable and inclusive solutions. The Republic of Namibia remains committed as a key stakeholder in ensuring the attainment of this objective.

I THANK YOU