

Republic of Namibia



STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE ROYAL J. K. /UI/O/OO, MP

DEPUTY MINISTER: MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

*16TH SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS
ISSUES*

**REMARKS ON THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE
WORLD CONFERENCE ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK

28 APRIL 2017

Your Excellency the Chair of the Indigenous People Forum

Your Excellencies

Dear Delegates

Namibia would like to comment as follows on the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples that took place on the 22 – 23 Sept 2014 here at the United Nations, which was first of its kind.

- Namibia was pleased to have participated in this Conference.
- Namibia welcomes the efforts of the international community to address the rights of indigenous peoples and expresses full support and solidarity with indigenous peoples of the world.
- Namibia voted for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in 2007 with other member states of United Nations.
- The Government of the Republic of Namibia recognized that the San, Ovaherero, Ovambo communities of Namibia are particularly marginalized groups and they have been identified in various Namibian laws and policies as groups that merit special attention and concern.
- Education, Resettlement and Livelihood Support programs were identified as key development components to poverty alleviation amongst these communities. Hence, the government has prioritised them as key priorities towards addressing the socio-economic situation of the marginalised communities in a spirit of Harambee Prosperity Plan and that nobody must be left out in the Namibian House.
- These Programs also enjoyed throughout the years the continuous support and positive relations with local public and private stakeholders, and multilateral organisations such as the ILO, Spanish Corporation (AECID), and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA).
- Namibian Government also invited the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples to visit Namibia and would like to thank him for his positive reporting on our achievements and his recommendations.
- Currently there are 5 x traditional authorities from the San communities recognised by the government and they are also members of the Namibia Traditional Council.

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- This year the government together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs held a consultative conference in Namibia on the drafting of a White Paper Policy on Indigenous Peoples. We would like to thank them for their continued support and looking forward to our future partnership.
- On the implementation of the Human Rights and culture mandated areas, the Constitution of Namibia provides for the Bill of Rights and all Namibian are treated equally before the laws and are allowed to practice their own culture without any discrimination.
- We would like to acknowledge that we need to do more as a country for the marginalised communities but due to limited resources, we can only just implement actions within our means.
- We therefore, urge the United Nations and United Nations Agencies to continue and strengthen its support to member states in the implementation of its Programs.
- We also urge the United Nations system to continue with the implementation of equal representations of all indigenous peoples from different continents in its decision making process.
- In conclusion, as we are gathering here as peoples of the World, at the United Nations celebrating the tenth anniversary of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Republic of Namibia would once again affirm and commit itself to the implementation and ratification of all the United nations Declarations, Conventions, and Treaties as a Member state.

I Thank You