

**STATEMENT AT THE 13TH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 12 TO 19 APRIL
2015, DOHA QATAR BY H. E. SIMON M. MARUTA
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT
VIENNA**

Mr President,

At the outset let me congratulate H. E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar on his election as chairperson of the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and express my warmest gratitude to the Government and people of the State of Qatar for the hospitality rendered to us since our arrival and professional preparation in hosting this congress in Doha, Qatar.

My delegation associates itself with the statement presented by H. E. Ambassador Evandro de Sampaio Didonet, Permanent Representative of Brazil on behalf of G77 and China and statement delivered by H. E. A. A. Ayoko Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr President,

Namibia has ratified international instruments to fight crime and transnational organized crimes such as the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, The Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

We have adopted the National Drug Control Master Plan, which in essence, is a multi-agency coordinating framework, with the objectives to mitigate and reduce the effects of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking, in addition to counteracting economic crimes such as corruption and money laundering in recognition of the interplay of such crimes with drug abuse and human trafficking.

Namibia has made progress on fulfilling its obligations under these instruments by adopting progressive legislation such as the Anti-Money Laundering, Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Combating Proliferation Financing Policy, the Combating of Rape Act and the Combating of Domestic Violence Act. Namibia also implemented a new Act, the Correctional Service Act, 2012 (Act 9 of 2012) alongside various supporting policies, which support the country's efforts to fight crime through reducing opportunities for recidivism. However, despite these laws and efforts, the prevalence of gender-based violence appears to have increased over the last decade.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (MGECW) and stakeholders have developed the National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in partial fulfilment of its mandate to ensure gender equality, equitable socio-economic development of women and men, and the wellbeing of children. The common forms of GBV in Namibia include, among others, domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, baby-dumping and human trafficking.

Mr President,

Namibia is obligated by a number of international treaties to take action against trafficking, and particularly against trafficking of children. For example, the **SADC Protocol on Gender and Development** requires Member States to adopt legislative provisions to prevent human trafficking and institute mechanisms to eliminate human trafficking networks by 2015. The **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child** and its **Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography** stipulate that child trafficking must be prevented and that States Parties must protect children from economic exploitation and any work likely to interfere with their education or development. We, therefore, call upon all Member States who have not yet ratified or acceded to the CRC to do so without further delay.

Trafficking in person, like illicit drug trafficking has become a growing problem in the world because of factors like poverty, conflict, natural disasters, crime, social violence and corruption, which can leave children and their families destitute and vulnerable to trafficking. In our efforts to curb these scourges, the Drug Law Enforcement Unit in the Ministry of Safety and Security regularly informs the community to report the perpetrators of these offences.

Our law enforcement agencies have additionally been combating the cross-border illegal activities of various drug syndicates. Annually, an average of about 400 kg of herbal cannabis, amongst others, are being confiscated and criminals, including Namibian citizens and foreign national are being arrested and prosecuted.

Mr President,

Illegal fishing by foreign Nationals in Namibia's sea zone robs the Namibian nation of the opportunity to generate revenue, which could be invested into socio-economic development, for example, job creation, wealth creation and sustainable economic development. The country is currently in the process of developing a stronger legal framework to combat fishing piracy in Namibian waters. To strengthen our capacity to monitor strict adherence to our laws, we call upon the international community to cooperate and assist Namibia in this regard.

Mr President,

I am pleased to share with the Congress that Namibia celebrated its 25th Independence Anniversary on 21 March this year 2015, which saw the nation putting into power its 3rd president after independence. This signifies effective governance as well as peace, stability and tranquility, which are fundamental to the promotion of rule of law and economic development.

The country's former president, his Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba was awarded the world's most valuable individual award, the Mo Ibrahim prize for African leadership in March this year, which showcases Namibia's standing as "a well-governed, stable and inclusive democracy with strong media freedom and respect for human rights".

Another positive development is that Namibia's fighting against financial crimes has shown a positive move by being removed from the International targeted review process of countries with shortcoming in their national Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financial of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regulatory environment.

Namibia was complemented for adopting national Anti-Money Laundering, Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Combating Proliferation Financing (AML/CFT/CPF) Policy, Laws and Implementation Frameworks. This adoption not only effectively assists Namibia to protect her national and the international financial systems against Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing and Proliferation Financing (ML/TF/PF) abuse, but also places the country on an accelerated pace to comply with both technical and effectiveness criteria endorsed in the FATF 2012 recommendations.

Mr President,

In conclusion, we recognize that the fight against all types of crimes is a shared responsibility, which requires an integrated and balanced approach and, thus, call upon the international community to cooperate in countering the increase in crimes, which involve the use of women, children and other vulnerable groups.

We have made history by adopting the Doha Declaration and appeal to the Member States to implement it in letter and spirit and look forward to the next 14th Congress to be held in Japan.

I thank you.