

**NAMIBIA'S STATEMENT AT THE RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (IRG), VIENNA, 14-16 NOVEMBER 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM 3: *Performance of the Mechanism for the Review of
Implementation of the United Nations Convention against
Corruption***

Mr President,
Distinguished Delegates

Implementation Review Mechanism is a significant undertaking helping member states towards full implementation of the Convention.

Namibia is among the States Parties whose first cycle reviews have been successfully completed. Namibia was reviewed by Canada and Ethiopia, and my delegation wishes to express our deepest appreciation to the reviewing team for their helpfulness and most cooperation. We also profoundly thank the secretariat of the Mechanism for their kind assistance.

The review report contains several recommendations which are reflected in both the Executive Summary as well as in the final report. The full report and the Executive Summary are available on line because Namibia wants other States Parties to benefit from our experiences and also learn from our challenges as well as our state of implementation of the Convention.

Efforts made after the completion of the review

Though Namibia was already in the process addressing certain identified gaps or loopholes in several laws to strengthen good governance, the impact of the Review

Mechanism, accelerated the process. The review process and its findings brought national stakeholders much closer in terms of cooperation to ensure that the recommendations reflected in the report are complied with.

1. A draft law on Whistleblower Protection has been completed and consultation with stakeholders had taken place. The Bill has been presented to the Office of the Attorney General for certification and will be tabled in Parliament very soon.
2. A draft law on Witness Protection has been completed and further consultative workshop also took place for stakeholders to make their input. This Bill will be tabled in Parliament very soon.
3. A National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan has been finalized, approved by the Executive/cabinet and the implementation process by various stakeholders has commenced.
4. The Public Service Regulations on declaration of financial interest were developed and accordingly gazetted. The process has also started to amend the Public Service Law to provide for the mandatory declaration of assets by all employees in Public Service. Members of Parliament and Cabinet members have also declared their assets in terms of Parliamentary Rules on declaration of assets. The President of the Republic of Namibia, though not compelled by any law or policy to do so, out of his own free will publicly declared his assets as well as that of his wife.
5. Department Public Service Information Technology Management in the Office of the Prime Minister has started implementing the e-Governance Plan of Action. Through this initiative citizens will be given online services and chances of bribery will be reduced.
6. A new Public Procurement Act has been enacted and signed into law by the President. It will enter into force very soon once the drafting of Regulations are completed. The new law addresses the loopholes identified in the current law. The new law provides for the establishment of the Procurement Policy Unit, a Central

Procurement Board of Namibia, Bid Evaluation Committee, and an Independent Review Panel among others.

- Workplan*
7. The Anti-Corruption Commission in consultation with stakeholders has laid down the preparation process for the amendment of the Anti-Corruption Law in accordance with the recommendations highlighted in the report. The law will be amended to make provisions among others, such as embezzlement of property in the private sector, criminalizing passive transnational bribery, illicit enrichment (in the manner it does not conflict with the constitution), and to provide for a definition of public official as defined in UNCAC. The amendments will also address the sanctions provided under the current law. The concern on lack of law on special investigative techniques power will as well receive the attention under the amendment law.
 8. Consultative workshops with stakeholders initiated by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology were held with the view to drafting the law on Access to Information. The media and civil society organizations are actively involved in this consultation exercise.

Mr President,

The Namibian Government is in the process of developing many other policies with the aim to promote transparency and accountability. The bedrock to this is the constitution of the Republic of Namibia which provides for democracy, rule of law and justice for all. Further, Namibia's National Development Program underscores transparency and accountability as pre-conditions to promote good governance.

Namibia remains committed to the full implementation of UNCAC. Like during the first review cycle, Namibia stands ready to render her fullest cooperation during the second review cycle. For the second review cycle, Namibia together with Australia have been selected to review Liechtenstein. We assure the Group our commitment and cooperation in carrying out this undertaking.

Finally, Mr President, my delegation urges fellow States Parties to consider avoiding unnecessary deferrals of either being reviewed or reviewing other member states. Such deferrals may result in many countries being reviewed in the last years of the review cycle. The practice may as well have negative budgetary impact on the Mechanism.

Cooperation between countries is critical to effectively tackle the problem of corruption, particularly that the Second Review Cycle focuses on Prevention and Asset Recovery. International cooperation is indispensable in the global effort to fight corruption. It facilitates positive dialogue on policies, harmonize mutual legal assistance and sharing of information.

The significant impact of UNCAC has convinced us, more than before, that corruption is not just a domestic phenomenon. It is a global phenomenon that requires international cooperation to successfully tackle it.

On behalf of my delegation, I express our gratitude to the Secretariat for a well-organized resumed seventh session of the IRG meeting.

I thank you, Mr President.