



## **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT THE  
THIRTY SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON  
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE,  
22 – 26 MAY 2023, DELIVERED BY MS YVONNE DAUSAB,  
MP, HONOURABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE**

**Madam Chair, Excellencies,**

1. On behalf of the Republic of Namibia, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission, as well as to the other elected members of the Bureau. We look forward to engaging and contributing constructively to the discussions and pledge our full cooperation. I also wish to commend the Secretariat for the excellent preparations of the Session.
2. The Republic of Namibia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China.

**Madam Chair,**

3. Namibia welcomes the theme for this session of the CCPCJ and regards access to justice as a key pillar for promoting, protecting and fulfilling the right to a fair trial and just compensation for victims. This right is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, and the value of a well-functioning legal aid system in ensuring access to justice cannot be over emphasised. Namibia supports the work of the UNODC and specifically the objectives of the CCPCJ in combating crime at both domestic and international levels.
4. The safety and security of our citizens and the people of the world in all regards, including physical, economic and social well-being is constantly at risk of being compromised as a result of corruption and transnational organized crime. Therefore, the need for enhanced cooperation amongst states cannot be overemphasized.
5. We wish to express a serious concern over the increased, perceived reluctance by some states to cooperate on the basis of the UNCAC and UNTOC as multilateral

instruments. These instruments provide states with the opportunity to afford each other the widest measure of international cooperation, yet too many of us are finding excuses not to do so. Namibia remains a stern supporter of these instruments, especially the implementation review mechanisms.

**Madam Chair,**

6. Namibia wishes to call upon all states to ensure that the Kyoto Declaration does not remain just words, but that we will all strive towards effective implementation of the undertakings we have made therein.
7. Our commitment to a multilateral approach in preventing and combating crimes and promoting the rule of law at the domestic, regional and international level is cardinal. In doing so, we remain mindful of the principles of human dignity, equality and justice. To which end, Namibia recognizes that crime prevention, especially in as far as it relates to children, the youth and PWDs, is an imperative for achieving economic, social and educational developmental goals, especially for developing states.
8. We are pleased to announce that Namibia has made great strides in advancing some long-standing legislative reforms. These includes the finalization of the Child Justice Bill, amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act, the Prevention of Organized Crime Act, the Financial Intelligence Act, the Exchange Control Act, and other legislation to bring it more in line with the UNCAC, UNTOC and other governance instruments. These will be tabled in Parliament during June 2023.
9. The Namibian Treasury has also availed funds for the implementation of the Witness- and Whistleblower Protection legislation during the financial year ending 31 March 2024. This implementation of which will take place in a staggered manner. We hope to safeguard victims' rights, protect witnesses and

improve public perception of the criminal justice system. In this regard, we look forward to benchmarking with those states who have successfully implemented similar programmes to share experiences.

**Madam Chair,**

10. The frequency of occurrence of the offense of Trafficking in Persons is a concern for Namibia. Our normative framework and its implementation has been found to be adequate to address the cases, although it puts enormous strain on our limited resources. Therefore, we call upon all states to work together and root out this evil that targets the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children.
11. The combating of wildlife crimes and crimes involving our natural resources, especially our marine and mineral resources remain a high priority for Namibia and we will leave no stone unturned to protect our resources from exploitation through corrupt activities and to demand reparation and compensation for damages suffered as a result of such activities.
12. Namibia acknowledges that a lot needs to be done both at domestic and international levels to combat crime. However, we also celebrate the hard work and achievements of the UNODC and all member states in combatting crime. Let us work together as equal partners and break down structural barriers that favours only the perpetrators and serves to the detriment of the victims of crime.

**Madam Chair,**

13. As I conclude, please allow me to invite you all to Namibia's Side Event, taking place tomorrow morning, focusing on *Enhancing the functioning of the criminal justice system to ensure access to justice and to realize a safe and secure society*". The side event also serves as a celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

of the adoption of the UN Principles and Guidelines for Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems.

**I Thank you.**