



STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE YVONNE DAUSAB,

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**AT THE TENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

AGENDA ITEM: 1(F)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

11 DECEMBER 2023

ATLANTA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Mister President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I join other delegations in congratulating you on your election as President of the Tenth Session of the Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The Namibian delegation would like to assure you of its full support and cooperation during this Conference. We further extend our support to the Bureau and appreciate the work done by the Secretariat in preparing this Conference.

Namibia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Africa Group and the G77+China respectively.

Mister President,

This Conference of the State Parties continuously demonstrates the global community's commitment to the implementation of the Convention. The 10th session of the Conference ensues as the second review cycle approaches its completion. It is important to note that the Mechanism's second cycle has been extended until June 2024 to ensure its efficacy (decision 8/1).

Namibia is deeply grateful to the reviewers from Ethiopia, Canada, Uganda, and France, as well as the Secretariat for their cooperation and transparency **during the process**. In response to the reviews, Namibia has taken numerous measures to comply with the recommendations and improve the living conditions of our people. This experience has allowed us to reflect on our own plans to review the safeguards in place to combat corruption. We are committed to continuing our efforts towards creating a better future for our country and its citizens.

Mister President,

The Namibian government has taken measures to comply with the Convention recommendations, including the implementation of policies, legislations, and institutional

arrangements. To achieve this, several laws were amended such as the Prevention of Organized Crime Act, the Financial Intelligence Act, the Police Act, the Criminal Procedure Act, the Extradition Act, and the International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Act. The government's commitment to ensuring compliance was demonstrated through effective and timely implementation.

As a result of the aforesaid vigorous amendments to existing legal frameworks, Namibia in cooperation with the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Angola is in the process of **making efforts to** return the stolen millions that have been traced and confiscated in Namibia as provided for by article 57 of UNCAC.

The Namibian government's positive outlook is rooted in the persistent implementation of UNCAC, which we believe will play a pivotal role in realizing social and environmental justice and equality. Our vision therefore is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the "Africa we want" AU Agenda 2063, both of which prioritize sustainable growth and development.

Mister President,

Corruption is a global problem that permeates and affects society deeply. Part of its solution therefore lies in enhanced mutual legal assistance and international cooperation without which the prevention and combatting of the deep traces of corruption will be inadequate. The ongoing political instability and conflicts in some parts of the world continue to exacerbate corruption, retards service delivery and the procurement of goods is laced with delays and ineptitude.

Undoubtedly, corruption is a cross-border crime of global proportions: It hinders economic development, reduces equality of opportunities and efficiency, significantly lowers public revenue, increases public spending, lowers productivity, and undermines the rule of law, ethical leadership and democratic values.

A coordinated global response to corruption must be strengthened to ensure the recovery of stolen assets and prevention of escalating incidents of corruption. Only when authorities render each other necessary mutual legal assistance that assets stolen from other countries and stashed in foreign havens will be traced and duly repatriated to be used to improve the living conditions of the majority of citizens in their respective countries.

Mister President,

As we pause to take stock and reflect on the 20 years of the Convention and the various efforts to combat corruption, we must remember the world has changed immensely, and so has the fight against corruption. We must as a global community renew the resolute and shared commitment to prevent and counter corruption through the effective implementation of the letter and the spirit of the Convention.

Imagine a world without corruption. Where every nation works together, hand-in-hand, to ensure assets stolen from different jurisdictions are traced and repatriated back to their rightful owners. Such a united global effort against corruption is essential for a better future.

In conclusion, **Mister President**, and I quote: “You can't play a symphony alone, it takes an orchestra to play it.” - Navjot Singh Sidhu, hence, Namibia reiterates the importance of the Review Mechanism in beating the drum for the Implementation of the Convention as the most appropriate and effective sound to synchronize the tune on member countries for checks and balances. We believe that the review mechanism plays a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of States Parties to be responsive, adaptable and relevant in the manner they address the scourge of corruption and to develop better tools for the attainment of social justice.

Mister President,

The Namibian delegation wishes you and the members of the Bureau success in your work, and we look forward to constructive engagement with all other delegations during this week.

I thank you

