

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT THE UNITED
NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (RIO +20)**

20 JUNE 2012

**RIO DE JANEIRO,
BRAZIL**

**Check Against Delivery*

**Your Excellency Madam Dilma Rousseff, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development,
Your Majesties,
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to congratulate the President, the Government and people of the Federative Republic of Brazil for hosting this important Summit on Sustainable Development.

Twenty years ago, world leaders gathered here in Rio de Janeiro, under the auspices of the United Nations, to put in place a framework for promoting sustainable development and the responsible utilization of the planet's natural resources.

Their aim was to secure a better future for the current and future generations. Thus, it is appropriate that we come together again to review and evaluate the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the 1992 Summit.

Your Excellencies,

As we gather here, the enduring principles contained in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should prevail and guide us during this important Summit.

They should inspire us to work for a common purpose and provide the necessary momentum to the process of building the future that we want, a better, fair, equitable and more sustainable future for all humanity. The outcome of Rio +20 should reassure the people of the world that, as leaders, we are committed to find sustainable solutions.

Your Excellencies,

In Namibia, sustainable development is a constitutional imperative. Our constitution obliges the state *“to actively promote the welfare of the people by adopting policies that are aimed at the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity of Namibia”*.

Against this background, we have introduced laws, policies and programmes to promote and co-ordinate sustainable development initiatives.

These include the Community-based Natural Resources Management Programme, the establishment of Communal Conservancies and other policies. Our protected areas network has also been expanded and now covers forty four (44) per cent of our territory. Namibia's entire coastline is under national park status.

In addition, institutions such as the National Planning Commission and the Environmental Investment Fund have been established. An Environmental Commissioner has been appointed and the Environmental Management Act of 2007 is fully operational.

Within the context of poverty reduction, job creation and sustainable utilisation of our natural resources, Namibia stands ready to work with the international community in order to mainstream the emerging concepts of green economy and natural capital into our national planning processes.

Your Excellencies,

Climate change has a direct negative impact on sustainable development around the world. Namibia, therefore, welcomes the establishment of the Green Climate Fund.

As part of the commitment of the Namibian people to this important initiative, our country seeks the support of UN Member States to host the Green Climate Fund Secretariat in our Capital City, Windhoek.

Your Excellencies,

It is unacceptable that while we have been and continue to speak about sustainable development, millions of people in developing countries do not have access to basic social and public amenities that many people in other parts of the world now take for granted. *The Future We Want* cannot be built on such a shaky foundation.

Thus, let us take deliberate action to address the social, economic and systemic impediments that deny millions of people of opportunities to lead decent and dignified lives. Similarly, let us do more in order to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of sustainable development.

Your Excellencies,

The current patterns of exploitation and consumption of the world's resources are unsustainable.

They threaten and undermine the survival of humanity on this planet. In this light, we call on the international community to recommit to the 1992 Rio Principles, including the “*Principle of Common, but Differentiated Responsibility*”. Let us renew our resolve and recommit ourselves to these principles, if we were to build *The Future We Want*.

This must be accompanied by commitments for all countries to strengthen the means of implementation in order to successfully implement sustainable development initiatives. Without clear strategies in this critical area, any success from Rio +20 is likely to be short-lived.

Going forward, the international community, especially the developing countries should work harder to build adaptive capacities, in order to successfully promote and implement sustainable development initiatives.

Let us frame a common vision to achieve the noble goals of a more sustainable world and work together to build *The Future We Want*, both for the current and the coming generations.

I thank you.