



STATEMENT

**BY H.E DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF
H.E. MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT, CHAIRPERSON
OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION**

**08 MAY 2018
WINDHOEK**

**Your Excellency, H.E. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat,
Chairperson of the African Union Commission;**

**Rt. Hon. Saarah Kuugongelwa Amadhila, Prime
Minister of the Republic of Namibia;**

**Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime
Minister and Minister of International Relations
and Cooperation;**

Honourable Ministers;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Members of the Media;

**At the outset, let me take this opportunity to
welcome you and your delegation to the Republic
of Namibia.**

**Your visit provides us with the opportunity to
deliberate on key African Union priorities such as**

continental integration, peace and security and AU institutional reforms.

The history of the liberation struggle of Namibia is intertwined with the history of the African Union. The OAU Coordinating Committee for the Liberation of Africa played an immense role towards the liberation struggle of Namibia. Through the OAU Coordination Committee for the liberation of Africa, the Continent worked tirelessly and spoke with one voice in support of liberation movements on the Continent. Namibia therefore, benefited from the continent's solidarity and support to fight against colonialism and apartheid. As a country we attach great importance to the historic role played by the OAU in the liberation of our country.

In this regard, Namibia is fully committed to the integration of our Continent and strongly believes

that its own economic development depends on advancing regional and continental economic co-operation and integration. Accordingly, Namibia is implementing Agenda 2063 and its First Ten year Implementation Plan in order to achieve the “Africa we want”. The establishment of the AfCFTA is the first Agenda 2063 flagship project on target for completion within the roadmap establish in pursuance of Agenda 2063s First Ten Year Implementation Plan, aimed at boosting Africa’s economic growth and intra-African trade through integration by creating “One African Market”.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is an integral part of the broader African integration and development agenda, as expounded in Agenda 2063; it represents an important achievement in the fulfillment of the Pan-African aspirations of the founding fathers of the OAU, who wished for a united and peaceful

Africa, enjoying inclusive growth, sustainable development and socio-economic prosperity. Africa's advancement remains first and foremost a matter for Africans.

Namibia reiterates her commitment towards the AfCFTA and the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment and will expedite internal processes to sign and ratify these instruments.

It is critical to emphasize the importance of making our organization more responsive, effective and efficient to deliver its mandate as outlined in Agenda 2063. Therefore, the institutional reforms we have agreed to embark upon are cardinal to the success of the organization. Namibia fully supports the AU institutional reforms and is ready to play its role.

Similarly, the reform of the United Nations is very important and Namibia believes that the reform of the UN Security Council has become an urgent and important task for it to remain relevant in the 21st century. Imparting more legitimacy and balance to the UN Security Council would restore its credibility and equip it to confront the challenges of our times. As a member of the African Union Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government (C-10) on the reform of the UN Security Council, Namibia continues to actively promote and canvass support for the Common African Position, as enunciated in Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration.

Let me conclude by emphasising that the total liberation of Africa remains incomplete as long as the people of Western Sahara do not enjoy their inalienable right to self-determination and

independence. Namibia calls for the speedy implementation of all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions on Western Sahara and fully supports the mediation efforts of the UN Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary General and the Special Envoy of the AU on Western Sahara.

Once again we welcome you to the land of the brave and wish you a fruitful visit.

I thank you!