

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**Statement by His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob,
President of the Republic of Namibia**

At the BRICS-Africa Outreach Dialogue

10TH BRICS Summit

Johannesburg, South Africa

27 July 2018

Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government

Honourable Ministers

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to have been invited to the 10th BRICS Summit here in Johannesburg, under the theme: *"BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution"*.

We thank His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, for extending an invitation to African leaders to be part this important summit. This noble gesture is in line with the continent's Agenda 2063 that envisages a strong industrialized Africa that will be on equal footing with other regions of the world. We also thank President Ramaphosa and the people of South Africa, for the warm hospitality extended to us, since our arrival in Johannesburg. We equally appreciate the warm welcome accorded to us by all BRICS member states, at this BRICS-Africa Outreach Dialogue.

The new areas proposed by South Africa on peacekeeping, collaboration in vaccine research, improved gender representation and inclusive growth models within the context of the 4th industrial revolution are timely and relevant. The new realities of the fourth industrial revolution that is characterized by artificial intelligence, robotics and alternative means of production is something that we should pay particular attention to. In this new stage of the evolution of humanity, labour as we know it today will not be the same. Developing Nations, and Africa in particular will be challenged due to young and bulging populations. The only way to overcome this challenge will through continuous capacity building, exchange of ideas, retraining and retooling of our young people. Africa counts on the support of BRICS in this regard.

Russia, India and China, stood by Africa during our liberation struggles. It is therefore, heartwarming that without exception all BRIC members, including South Africa have in various ways declared their strong support towards Africa's economic emancipation. Just two days ago, Prime Minister Modi, in his address to Uganda's Parliament renewed India's commitment towards Africa. In terms of their 10 guiding principles Africa will be always at the heart of India's priorities. The People's Republic of China has equally prioritized Africa under the FOCAC arrangement that will convene again in China during the first week of September. Russia under the Soviet Union has always been on our side. It is good to know that Africa has strong, trusted and reliable partners in the next stage of our developmental trajectory.

With South Africa as a member of the BRICS, we believe that the continent of Africa is well represented. We are confident that the strategic frameworks for the development of Africa, in particular Agenda 2063 and its ten-year implementation, would receive priority from BRICS. The invitation to the BRICS Summit offers Africa the opportunity to contribute to the decision-making process, and reap the benefits from the economic cooperation from BRICS.

African countries are cognizant of the importance of trade and investment as a conduit to economic growth, poverty eradication and development. As such, we are moving ahead in great strides to create an enabling trading environment on the continent. With investors on board, we seek to accelerate the implementation of continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

As Namibia assumes the Chairmanship of SADC next month, we are determined to continue building up on the wonderful job of the current Chair, South Africa, and move SADC towards regional and continental economic integration.

In our endeavours to move forward, we need cooperating partners to support Africa. We are thankful of the cordial relations, which exist between BRICS and Africa, and shall remain committed to maintaining this good relationship. To this end, we welcome the establishment of the New Development Bank, which is an alternative source of financing for major infrastructure and related projects, especially in Africa. It is our wish that the New Development Bank will have a different character than the banks we know. Affordably financing, with less conditions, will go a long way in assisting Africa accomplish its industrialisation and economic development goals and aspirations.

It is my hope that the productive and fruitful deliberations we are having during this dialogue will be implemented for the benefits of Africa and BRICS.

I thank you