

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**REMARKS BY HONOURABLE NETUMBO NANDI-
NDAIWAH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON
GLOBAL LEADERS MEETING ON GENDER
EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

27 SEPTEMBER 2015

NEW YORK

**Your Excellencies President of the People's Republic of China, President of the Republic of Kenya,
Distinguished Secretary General,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Twenty years ago the world leaders met in Beijing to review the implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking strategies adopted at the 3rd World Conference on women held in Nairobi, Kenya in 1985. In Beijing world leaders affirmed their political commitment towards gender equality and the empowerment of women by adopting "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action". The Beijing Platform for Action remains a powerful guidance and source of inspiration to all of us.

Namibia signed and ratified regional and international instruments aimed at the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment. Namibia is party to the Beijing Platform for Action. At the national level Namibia passed laws such as the Married Persons' Equality Act, the Combating of Rape Act, Child Care and Protection Law. As a first step of the implementation of those instruments, Namibia adopted the national Gender Policy and Plan of Action.

Significant targets in the area of gender equality and empowerment of women have been met and measurable progress has been achieved.

Among others, is the high enrollment of girls in primary and secondary school as well as the increase in the enrollment ratio of girls to boys. There is an increase of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. Furthermore, there is a remarkable increase in the representation in the National Assembly from 24% in 2009 to 47% in 2015. This increase was largely influenced by the adoption of the 50/50 gender representation policy of the governing SWAPO Party. In Namibia, the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister are both women. Thanks to the Local Authority Law that has a quota for women over 40% of local councilors are women.

The National Gender Plan of Action 2010-2020 include two critical areas of concern. These areas are peace-building, conflict resolution and natural disaster management; and gender equality in the family context. In addition, we have introduced the Gender Responsive Budgeting initiative, which will form an integral part of the Government budgeting processes.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

We have established a Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare to spearhead and mainstream gender

issues and ensure that women and girls are given equal opportunities to achieve their full potential.

Namibian women continue to serve in the UN Peace-keeping Missions since 2000.

Despite this achievements, challenges and gaps still remain.

In spite of these challenges, the Government remains committed to women empowerment to ensure that women's rights are protected have women have access to services including education, health and employment opportunities, among others. Namibia commits to fight Gender-based violence

Namibia is committed to ensure that women as agents of peace paly their role both at community, national and international level.

Namibia commits herself to continue to sensitize our people to fully embrace the critical role women play in society.

I thank you.