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**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
STATEMENT**

BY:

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**AT THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**

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FAO HEADQUARTERS, IN ROME, ITALY

**Mr. Chairperson of the Conference; Hon. Ministers of Agriculture present here;
Your Excellency, Dr. José Graziano da Silva, Director General of FAO;
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is my honour and privilege to address the 40th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). Firstly, I would like to thank and congratulate FAO for organizing this Session under the Theme: “Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security”. This Theme is befitting and appropriate, as we are now at the time of engaging into a high gear for the accelerated implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors in the Namibian economy, as 70 percent of our population depends on this sector for their livelihoods. In addition, this sector is also an important source of foreign exchange earnings for Namibia.

Acknowledging the crucial role that the agriculture sector plays in the lives of our population, the right to food security and nutrition is protected under the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. In line with this constitutional provision, the Government of the Republic of Namibia is implementing various sectorial policies. The strategic objectives of these sectorial policies are to develop agriculture in its wider dimension along the entire value chain, and to increase food production under irrigation and rain-fed conditions, to ensure food security at national and household levels. In order to give effect to the above policies, Namibia is implementing a number of programmes to boost agricultural production and productivity.

Namibia has adopted and mainstreamed agricultural and environmental sustainability as a core principle in policy formulation and implementation processes. In this regard, all agriculture, water and forestry policies take into account the aspirations, objectives and targets of the Agenda 2030 , the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, EU Agenda 2063 as well as the Malabo and Maputo Declarations.

In this regard, Namibia, being a dry country, has been at the receiving end of the impact of Climate Change. For the past years, our country has experienced four consecutive droughts, which prompted our Government to implement costly Drought Relief Programmes. It is precisely for this

reason that Namibia decided to sign and ratify the Paris Agreement without delay, as well as to implement programmes aimed at the adaptation and mitigation of Climate Change. To this effect, we are implementing with the technical assistance from FAO a Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture (CA) Programme, under which farmers are expected to implement minimum tillage, crop rotation and organic soil cover. Allow me, therefore Mr. Chairman, to express our sincere gratitude to FAO for this valuable support.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

There is no doubt that the world is facing a common enemy, namely Climate Change and its adverse impact on agriculture and food security. The challenge posed by Climate Change on agriculture calls for the immediate implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal no. 2 on Zero Hunger and Goal no.13 on Climate Action. The same challenge also calls for a prompt enforcement of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. There is, therefore, a need for all FAO member states to act and rededicate their efforts towards the full operationalization of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Various studies indicate that global warming will have devastating effects on crop yields especially in developing countries. This is particularly a cause for concern as the majority of the world's 793 million undernourished people and those facing abject poverty reside in developing countries. It is therefore evident that if the scenario that is predicted materialises, Climate Change will have a double impact and double burden on developing countries, namely, increased food insecurity and increased poverty. Given this situation, it becomes even more urgent for the Development Partners to fast-track their support to developing countries, as provided for in target number 12(a) of SDG 12, as well as in the Paris Agreement. This support will enable developing countries to build their technical and scientific capacity on Climate Change.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the Conference that Namibia, remains committed to this noble course, and therefore, pledges its dedication towards the realization of the letter-and-spirit of the Paris Agreement, and further reaffirm its commitment to the attainment of the objectives of the SDGs.

I thank you.