

**Statement by Namibia's Deputy Minister of Fisheries and  
Marine Resources – Hon. Dr. Chief Ankama at the occasion  
of the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Food and  
Agricultural Organization of the United Nations**

Your Excellency the President of the Conference

Hon. Ministers present,

Your Excellency, J. G. Da Silva, Director General of  
FAO,

Your Excellency the Independent Chairperson of the  
Council

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corp,

Representatives from the Regional Economic  
Communities,

Representatives of Farmers' Organisations and NGOs

Distinguished Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the Republic of Namibia, I  
would like to express our gratitude to the Government of  
Italy our host and the Food and Agriculture Organization

(FAO), for inviting Namibia to participate in this important meeting.

On behalf of my delegation, I want to register our appreciation for the warm and kind hospitality extended to our delegation since our arrival. Namibia is deeply honoured and delighted to be part of this gathering that seeks to discuss and find solutions to common challenges pertaining to hunger and malnutrition.

My Delegation concurs with the Director-General's proposed four-year Medium Term Plan (MTP) and two-year Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) as a guiding tool for activities of the FAO from next year. Complementarily, the Strategic Thinking Process has produced a commendable Strategic Framework which will guide us until 2018.

The crafted Strategic Objectives are SMART as they will have indicators of achievement; and concrete Action Plans that will describe the overall approach that FAO will use to tackle the issues and problems identified under the Strategic Objectives. This will make implementability at country level simple as many Developing States suffer from well capacitated natural resource management technocrats. Namibia will benefit tremendously through this with regard to food and nutrition

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security and the agriculture, water, lands, fisheries and forestry sectors.

At country level Namibia acknowledges the pivotal coordinating role of FAO towards the implementation of the South-South Cooperation initiatives. Namibia has identified priority areas for FAO intervention in the next five years, based on government priority needs and FAO's comparative advantages. We have carefully and briefly described the institutional arrangements for implementation, as well as the Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation frameworks. We have taken cognisance of the five Strategic Objectives and their impact on our activities.

### **Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition**

Despite its marginal contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the agriculture sector remains central to the lives of the majority of the population. Directly or indirectly, it supports over 70 percent of the country's population. The sector can be divided into two distinct sub-sectors: the capital intensive, relatively well developed and export oriented commercial sub-sector; and the subsistence-based, high-labour, low-technology communal sub-sector.

The communal sector farmers practice subsistence rain-fed agriculture and livestock (cattle and goats) farming, and occupy about 27 percent of the total land area. They produce about 30

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percent of grain consumption requirements, and keep about 60 percent of cattle and 40 percent small stock populations of the national livestock herd. The commercial sector farmers occupy about 57 percent of the total land area of Namibia and are involved in the production of maize, wheat and other crops (such as grapes), as well as livestock (cattle and small stock) and game farming

Although the food and nutrition security situation has improved considerably in the last two decades, this is still a top priority issue for the Government. According to the preliminary findings of a recent assessment carried out following the 2012/13 drought situation, an estimated number of 330, 925 people are food insecure, 447, 577 moderately food insecure and 859, 898 food secure<sup>1</sup>, with food insecurity more prevalent in the north-western regions mainly due to recurrent droughts. Main contributing factors to food insecurity and under-nourishment are the high poverty rate, inequality of the income distribution, and the incidence of HIV/AIDS.. Together with FAO Namibia should be in a position to eradicate the plague of hunger and malnutrition.

**Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner**

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Namibia's agriculture sector, including water, forestry, lands and fisheries, is constrained by a variety of challenges such as:

Limited human and institutional capacity

Updating policy and turning it into practice.

Lack of coordination on food and nutrition security issues

Inadequate access to agricultural information for farmers

With the new arrangement by FAO our country hopes to benefit in eradicating these bottlenecks hampering our development objectives. .

Finally, Namibia congratulates and welcomes the sister countries that joined the large family of FAO and further anticipates a global healthy and succesful implementation of the Strategic objectives geared towards eradication of hunger and improvement of nutrition as well as poverty reduction among the peoples of the world.

I thank you,

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