

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



THE PRESIDENCY

STATEMENT BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. NANGOLO MBUMBA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE PLENARY – OPENING SEGMENT

22 SEPTEMBER 2024

UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK

Your Excellency Philemon Yang, 79th President of the General Assembly,

Your Excellency António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations,

Your Excellency Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Distinguished Youth Representatives

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

- 1. Today, we gather at this Summit of the Future to adopt, A Pact for the Future, which our countries painstakingly negotiated over the last 18 months. We all are differently impacted by the weight of this historic moment for our global community under the United Nations.**
- 2. There is an African Proverb that says “tomorrow belongs to the people who plan for it today.” The Summit of the future is a pivotal moment in our quest to shape a brighter, more just, sustainable, and peaceful common future for all humanity. It is a further commitment to bequeath to the current and future generations a world at peace with itself, a world in which all countries and peoples are prosperous, and a world that is more loving, more inclusive and tolerant. At this critical juncture, the scale and degree of compounding challenges of poverty, hunger, climate**

change, economic inequality, conflict, and public health crises, may seem insurmountable. However, this Summit equally presents a historic opportunity for the nations of the world, to combine their strength and resources and confront these crises head-on.

- 3. Today, the world is at the crossroads. One path leads to an environmental catastrophe, widening inequalities, global conflict and destruction, and the rise of dangerous technologies that threaten our security and civil liberties. The other path offers hope—hope for climate change, global peace, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the responsible harnessing of digital technologies for the benefit of all humanity. Therefore, the Summit of the Future is a timely and urgent call to action, urging us to choose the path of peace, prosperity, and sustainable development for all.**
- 4. The world of 1945, when the United Nations was established in San Francisco to promote unity among nations under the rubric of “We the peoples”, is contrastingly different from the world of 2024. So much has changed! As a result, we as leaders are once again called upon by destiny to come together and forge a brighter future for our peoples. To forge a brighter tomorrow for**

people and planet, we must be courageous to reform international organizations, including the United Nations and its Security Council.

- 5. A new multilateralism—one that truly works—must rest on four key pillars of UN reform. First, the UN must empower nations and regions to adopt comprehensive pathways to provide economic opportunities and prosperity, underpinned by environmental sustainability. Second, the UN must strengthen global agreements and institutions to ensure the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Third, the UN must be equipped to finance these goals through an innovative global financial architecture. Fourth, we must harness the incredible advancements in science and technology for the common good, while being ever vigilant against the misuse of innovations such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and geoengineering.**
- 6. The Pact for the Future sets out key global priorities for humanity, which are: sustainable development and financing; international peace and security; science, technology, and innovation; the empowerment of youth and future generations; and global governance.**

- 7. I extend heartfelt congratulations to the respective co-facilitators, and all Member States of the United Nations for this profound accomplishment. The Summit of the Future, under the able leadership of the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Namibia, has been a collective effort over the past 18 months to build consensus and restore trust. And to reinforce the principles of dialogue, cooperation, and shared responsibility.**

Excellencies,

- 8. We need the UN because at the heart of this institution is a simple yet profound principle: global problems require global solutions. It remains the most effective way to achieve peace, security and prosperity. The Namibian Government recognizes the profound significance of this Summit for the Future for our planet, to meet the targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.**
- 9. Sustainable Development must be our guiding principle, summarized by the five P's: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships. People signify our commitment to leave no one behind. Planet signifies the urgent need to live within planetary boundaries. Prosperity calls for extending**

the benefits of modern education and technology to all. Peace, in the nuclear age, requires nations to live together under international law and the UN Charter. Partnerships, between governments, civil society, and business, are essential to achieving our shared goals.

- 10. We must leave this Summit with renewed commitments and concrete action plans to eradicate poverty, eliminate hunger, tackle climate change, and build a global economy that works for all. Future generations will judge us not by our words, but by our actions.**

Excellencies,

- 11. Guided by the principles of the UN Charter, we must reaffirm our commitment towards peaceful coexistence and shared development. We have the tools, the knowledge, and the opportunity to shape a better world. I am confident that together, we can rise to the occasion and seize this moment in history, for a brighter future that is peaceful, just and sustainable.**

Thank you.