

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

21 SEPTEMBER 2020

Mr. President,

It has been 75 years since the establishment of this global body in the interest of upholding the values of humanity and the principles of equality. Indeed, for the past 75 years, the United Nations has become the guarantor of human dignity for millions of people across the world. The fact that for 75 years, we have averted a Third World War, is testament to the success of this great human experiment in multilateralism.

We recognize the pivotal role this distinguished organization has played to promote and sustain world peace, and in the decolonization of Africa. As Namibians, we can attest to this fact, given our own history.

In 1960, Ethiopia and Liberia instituted proceedings against Apartheid South Africa at the International Court of Justice regarding the interpretation and application of the country's mandate over Namibia, then South West

Africa. On July 18, 1966, the International Court of Justice dismissed the case due to a technicality. Based on that technicality the ICJ did not deal with the merits of the Case and failed to rule on the legality of Apartheid South Africa's occupation of Namibia. However, in the same year, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 2145 which declared the Mandate terminated and that the Republic of South Africa had no further right to administer Namibia. Therefore the United Nations assumed direct responsibility for Namibia.

Thus, we are grateful that the United Nations was able to accompany us to independence and it was a proud day, when on March 21, 1990, we received the instruments of power from Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, to commence a new chapter in Namibia's history.

Not only did the United Nations contribute to the establishment of democracy in a free and independent Namibia, it also laid a cornerstone for our democracy by

establishing the United Nations Institute for Namibia (UNIN), where I had the privilege to be a Director for 12 years. This Institute helped train young Namibians in order to equip them with the requisite expertise and knowledge to become leaders and administrators in an independent Namibia. To date, Namibia continues to reap the benefit from this extraordinary organization whose alumni include the Chief Justice and Deputy Chief Justice amongst other key figures in the political, public and commercial spheres.

Indeed, the commemoration of this 75th Anniversary, is a great day for Namibia.

Mr. President,

Given the illustrious history of the United Nations and the realities of the modern day world, it is unacceptable that Africa remains excluded from the United Nations Security Council. It is time that the United Nations Security

Council's representation, reflects the current global geopolitical formations and security threats. In this regard, Africa is a capable partner, and therefore Africa should occupy her rightful position at the UN, in the interest of global peace and stability.

The United Nations has always championed equality and therefore Africa cannot continue to be sidelined. Let us make this anniversary an ideal moment for us to engage in collective introspection and to take this organization to the next level. Let us embrace multilateralism in order to augment the values and ideals upon which the United Nations was founded.

I thank you.