

Republic of Namibia



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE HILMA
NDINELAGO NICANOR, MP – DEPUTY MINISTER
OF DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AT THE
2023 UN PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL IN ACCRA,
GHANA 5 – 6 DECEMBER 2023**

Your Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, Honorable Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of Ghana, Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namibia congratulates the Government of Ghana for hosting the 5th Peacekeeping Ministerial, marking a historic moment as the first to be hosted on the African Continent. This Ministerial provides a timely platform for us to collectively reflect on the complexities surrounding current peacekeeping initiatives, navigate the evolution of peacekeeping efforts and most importantly address associated challenges. It also offers us an invaluable platform to advance reforms and development within UN peacekeeping, so as to align with the exigencies of the present day.

At its core, peacekeeping exemplifies a global partnership founded on solidarity. Let me therefore express our deepest appreciation to all peacekeepers who continue to make immense sacrifices, but above all, pay homage to those who have lost their precious lives in the pursuit of International peace and security in service to humanity. Their dedication underscores our collective obligation and commitment to fostering global peace.

Namibia commends the initiatives of Action for Peacekeeping and Action for Peacekeeping Plus launched in 2018 and 2021, respectively. These initiatives are pivotal in steering priorities that enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions. As the United Nations strengthens its collaboration with the African Union, Namibia underscores the necessity for increased investments in both peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Recognizing the importance of advancing political solutions and fostering common objectives to respond to crises, we advocate for joint conflict analyses and assessments in alignment with the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. It is imperative that we collectively strive to ensure adequate, sustainable, and predictable financing for peacebuilding and peace support operations, including funding AU-led peace support operations through assessed contributions.

Regional leadership is an indispensable asset to peacebuilding, and financial constraints should not hinder this critical contribution.

Namibia takes pride in its advancements in the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda, notably through the implementation of its National Action Plan (NAP) 2019-2024. As our NAP approaches its conclusion, we propose the establishment of a structured peer review mechanism to facilitate peer learning from Member States that have successfully implemented their first or second generation NAPs. Namibia offers to spearhead this initiative, through the International Women's Peace Centre which we launched in 2020, to mark the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325.

Furthermore, prioritizing the mental health of peacekeepers cannot be over emphasized and Namibia applauds Ghana for the choice of theme. Drawing on our own experience as a post-conflict society, we recognize the integral role of psycho-social

support within the armed forces and welcome its inclusion in peacekeeping planning.

In an era dominated by misinformation and disinformation, strategic communication is integral to the success of peacekeeping missions. Namibia appreciates the recognition of this reality and welcomes its inclusion in the core themes of this Ministerial meeting.

As a UN success story in multidimensional peacekeeping, Namibia reaffirms its commitment to contributing comprehensively to peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and peace support. Over 30 years since the success of the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG), we remain dedicated to constructive collaboration, notably through our current role on the AU Peace and Security Council and within the ambit of the AU-UN Partnership, working tirelessly to advance the strengthened and responsive peacekeeping.

In conclusion, I express our gratitude for the opportunity to share our perspectives and contributions. UN peacekeeping is indispensable to the maintenance of international peace and security. It is a collective pillar to collective peacemaking and peacebuilding. Therefore, Namibia remains steadfast in its commitment to the principles and objectives of UN peacekeeping.

Thank you!