6

Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT AT COP 16 AND CMP 6

BY

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Mr. President

Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

My delegation acknowledges the Government of Mexico and the people of the City of Cancun for the warm welcome extended to us and the excellent facilities put to our disposal, since our arrival in this beautiful city, I also commend you, Madam President, for your facilitation efforts that will lead us to a successful outcome here in Cancun.

We express our solidarity with the Governments and people of Columbia, Venezuela, Saint Lucia and all those countries and peoples who time and again experience devastating natural disasters due to climate change.

Madam President

As is the case in other African countries, the impacts of climate change are already being felt in Namibia, manifesting itself in the form of frequent droughts, floods, rainfall variability and high temperatures, thus threatening our food security. This makes it imperative for rural communities to adjust their planting patterns in order to adapt to such changes. Information and early warning systems for our farmers to make informed decisions are currently inadequate and need to be improved. Our most vulnerable communities are barely surviving, trying to address the adverse impact these changes have on their meager livelihoods through the use of their accumulated traditional knowledge.

Although Namibia has already started to respond to the risks paused by climate change, the emerging scientific information indicates that the overall climate change risks will be much higher in magnitude than currently being planned and prepared for. Local communities and other vulnerable groups will be adversely affected, hence **the** need to develop their adaptive capacities. This situation demands that major investments into institutional and policy development will be required to meet these needs.

Madam President

Our economic productive activities, such as agriculture, fisheries, mining and tourism are fully dependent on natural processes. Namibia is also experiencing a decline in water resources, especially the underground aquifers, affecting both crop and livestock production which are the backbone of our economy. In this regard, if we do not address climate change risks, our productivity in those sectors will continue to decline.

Namibia needs support to address climate change challenges and risks in order to establish adaptive long-term planning capabilities focusing on the vulnerable groups, women and youth as agents of change. Namibia also needs support to finance adaptation and mitigation efforts, improve and strengthen information sharing and early warning systems, so that communities can be well prepared for the incidences and adverse effects of climate change.

Based on scientific evidence, it is documented that climate change is real, is threatening our existence and if no action is taken now, our planet is in great danger. Therefore, our colleagues in developed countries who are even more advanced in scientific technology need to take that advise seriously. Rising temperatures are felt all over the globe and must be controlled.

Madam President

Notwithstanding the complexity of issues before this Conference of Parties we want our work here to be practical, concrete and produce decisions that would facilitate a fair, equitable and legally binding outcome, in line with the principles and provisions of the Convention and the Bali Action Plan. We urge developed countries to take science-based ambitious targets for mitigation, in line with their historical responsibility and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as a way of saving our planet. This emission reduction shall not be less than 40% below the 1990 levels by 2020, to ensure that global temperature is kept below 1.5 degrees celcius, as failure to do so will be disastrous for Africa and other developing countries.

The lack of commitments from the side of developed countries to take on meaningful commitments to reduce greenhouse gases and to provide adequate financial resources, further pushes developing countries into a vicious cycle of poverty and displacements, as a result of the adverse impacts of climate change. A situation that makes our people to question the responsibility of the current political leadership to the well being and survival of future generations

We must aim to get an effective result here in Cancun in order to put an end to the threats that climate change presents to Planet Earth. Thus, Namibia reiterates its commitment to the two track approach in order to maintain the integrity of both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Namibia would like to see Reduction of Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Plus adopted here as part of the package of decisions of COP 16, in addition to decisions on finance, adaptation, technology transfer and capacity building. Furthermore, developed countries have to take the lead in the provision of adequate and predictable funding to finance investments and financial flows associated with adaptation and mitigation efforts by developing countries.

The establishment of the new "Global Climate Fund" to fast-track financing of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, with special attention to adaptation, is a welcome move as part of the investments that developed countries will make from public sources to be complimented by the private sector.

Madam President

Future generations will never forgive us for tactical delays leading to an unfair outcome in our negotiations. Science tells us that if we don't act urgently now, the future economic cost of climate change will far exceed the current economic benefits. We must work together in good faith as citizens of this one and only living "Planet 'Earth' to reach consensus on substantive issues that are critical to the attainment of an effective climate change regime.

The successful Tenth Session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nation Convention on Biodiversity which took place in Nagoya, Japan recently has restored confidence in multilateralism. The Sixteenth Session of the Conference of Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change needs to emulate the Nagoya spirit and success and maintain the momentum.

I thank you.