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STATEMENT

**DELIVERED BY H.E NEVILLE GERTZE, PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIA TO THE
UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK AT AN EVENT
ENTITLED: "GOVERNANCE PERSPECTIVES ON
BUILDING NATIONAL RESILIENCE WITHIN A
GLOBAL CONTEXT OF MULTIPLE CRISES –
NAMIBIA"**

**24TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

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Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to address this peer exchange for VNR Countries during the twenty-fourth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), taking place from 7 to 11 April 2025 here at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Having just presented our 3rd Voluntary National review in July 2024, and having recently witnessed the transition from the 7th to the 8th Administration of our Government, Namibia is well placed to share her experience in building resilient systems, processes and institutions. As we gather to deliberate on the imperative of strengthening resilience within national governance systems, in the midst of increasingly complex and overlapping global crises. Environmental shocks, economic disruptions, public health emergencies, and persistent social vulnerabilities continue to challenge traditional models of development planning and public administration. These realities call for, integrated, forward-looking governance

responses that are adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable.

Namibia, a semi-arid country, has long grappled with environmental challenges. Recognizing the critical role a healthy environment plays in sustainable development and human well-being, Namibia has enshrined the right to a safe and healthy environment into its Constitution—a testament to our enduring commitment to environmental stewardship.

In recent months Namibia has diverted national resources to addressing the devastating effects of drought on rural and urban livelihoods. As we emerge from this, we contend with a new wave of climate-induced challenges and face the destructive effects of torrential rains which, while breaking the prolonged drought, have brought with them a surge in malaria cases, locust outbreaks, and rising floodwaters that have disrupted education, destroyed critical infrastructure and other essential services in several regions. These developments are emblematic of the far-reaching consequences of climate change, which has become a defining feature of Namibia's development trajectory.

For Namibia, the recurring shocks have also served as catalysts, strengthening our governance capacity and sharpening our national resilience strategies.

Namibia has taken deliberate steps to integrate risk-informed planning and resilience-building into all levels of its governance framework.

To ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not merely aspirational, our national development frameworks are deliberately aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 for the Africa we want. The SDGs are further localized and mainstreamed at the sectoral level, ensuring that their realization is embedded in strategies, plans, and budgets. This promotes policy coherence and facilitates robust monitoring and evaluation at both national and subnational levels.

In the coming weeks, Namibia will launch its 6th National Development Plan (NDP 6), the last 5-year phase of our current development planning, which reflects an even deeper integration of the SDGs and national priorities. NDP 6 includes a harmonized indicator framework to ensure that resource allocation, strategic interventions, and the implementation timelines align with global commitments and local needs. This alignment exemplifies our commitment to policy coherence—ensuring that all institutions and partners work collaboratively to achieve shared development outcomes.

Namibia has also put in place a climate-responsive governance model, underpinned by institutional reforms and a coordinated approach to disaster preparedness. The establishment of the National Disaster Risk Management Fund, along with a dedicated Disaster Risk Management Department housed within the Office of the Prime Minister, reflects the country's commitment to proactive risk reduction and timely emergency response. Complementing these efforts, Namibia also created the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF), which plays a pivotal role in promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, financing climate adaptation and mitigation projects, and advancing broader environmental sustainability goals across various sectors.

These locally guided initiatives are underpinned by the recognition that human capacity is the cornerstone of national resilience. Coupled with the spirit of partnership, supported and augmented by our work with development partners, including the United Nations, Namibia has been inspired to develop robust policy programmes aimed at addressing our most complex problems at a time marked by competition for financial resources to support our country's development agenda, despite our classification as a middle income country that is navigating the complexity of entrenched structural inequality and poverty. Our governance model

emphasizes continuous capacity building, policy innovation, and strengthening intersectoral collaboration. This ensures our ability to respond to crises by actively promoting a culture of prevention, preparedness, and long-term adaptation across government structures.

Namibia also leverages its active participation in regional mechanisms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to enhance policy coherence, foster democratic accountability, and facilitate cross-country learning on effective governance practices.

We remain committed to working with national stakeholders, regional partners, and the international community to co-create practical solutions that leave no one behind and build a resilient Namibia capable of withstanding current and future shocks. While I have focused my intervention on our local experience, it would be remiss of me not to mention that last year, world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future and in doing so, committed to transforming global governance structures. Underpinning this commitment is a resolve to strengthen the multilateral system to help us to achieve a world that is safe, peaceful, just, equal, inclusive, sustainable and prosperous. Local solutions are anchored in the broader global context and we must

pull together in the same direction to attain our common pursuit of a world that is better not only for current generations, but one that we can preserve for and bequeath to future generations.

As I conclude, I wish to emphasize that resilient governance is not a choice, it is an obligation. For Namibia, at the advent of the 8th administration, which under the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, took office last month; resilience means integrated planning, coherent policies, inclusive institutions, and empowered communities. As we engage in this important dialogue, we reaffirm our unflinching commitment to regional and global cooperation in building sustainable, just, and resilient societies for all.

I thank you.