



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

BY

RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH CONFERENCE OF
PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE (COP 24)**

KATOWICE, POLAND

03 DECEMBER 2018

H.E. Michał Kurtyka - President of COP 24;

Your Excellences Heads of State and Government;

H.E. António Guterres – Secretary General of the United Nations

H.E. Patricia Espinoza – Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mr President,

On behalf of the Namibian delegation, let me express our appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Poland, and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for the excellent arrangements made for this Conference. I also would like to thank the Polish Government for the warm hospitality that we have so far received in this beautiful town of Katowice.

Mr. President,

Namibia is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Our country's economy is dependent on natural resources such as agriculture, tourism and fisheries that are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We continue to bear the effects of frequent droughts, which rob our people their livelihoods, and floods that dismantle our infrastructures and degrade our soils.

Science warns us that time is not on our side, hence an urgent call to accelerate the level of mitigation ambition including the provision of means of implementation, particularly financial resources.

We need to finalise the Paris rulebooks during this Conference in order to fully and effectively operationalise the implementation of the Paris Agreement without further delays.

Mr. President,

We call on developed countries to review their respective Nationally Determined Contributions in order to jointly increase their level of mitigation ambition that can bridge the emission gap in the pursuit of achieving the agreed temperature goal of well below the 2 Degrees Celsius.

Adaptation remains a key priority for Namibia and other developing countries. Namibia strongly supports for an adaptation goal that is linked to the mitigation goal. Therefore, Annex1 Parties should acknowledge that the lesser efforts to halt the greenhouse gas emissions will lead to high vulnerability to climate change in developing countries. This leads to more adaptation efforts and high need for finance in order for us to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. The United Nation Environmental Program Emission Gap Report estimates that developing countries would require about US\$ 300 billion by 2030 in order to adapt to climate change.

We call on Annex1 Parties to deliver on the financial goal in a transparent and honest manner in order for us to implement our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). In Namibia, the implementation of the Namibia's NDC is conditioned to the provision of 90% of the financial resources from developed countries.

Mr President,

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) should continue streamlining its processes in order to ensure speedy approval of readiness support and projects proposals from developing countries. The GCF should also increase its visibility in developing countries more especially in Africa, the most vulnerable continent to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The GCF should further review its eligibility criteria for funding projects which currently disqualify Small Middle Income countries from accessing GCF grants. We look forward to the next replenishment cycle of the GCF and strongly encourage Annex 1 parties to honour their commitments and contribute their fair shares to the Fund.

Mr. President,

The COP24 shall finalise the modalities that will allow the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement. The Adaptation Fund has played a catalytic role in building climate resilience in many developing countries and it has so far built strong reputation in direct access on climate finance and investments. Therefore, we cannot afford to lose this very important Fund.

In conclusion, Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Namibia urges negotiators to this COP to maintain coherence in all the elements of the Paris Agreement in a transparent and balanced manner. Namibia also urges parties to embrace the Talanoa concept, which calls for negotiators to engage in an inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue.

With a strong political will, we can make great strides in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This requires the unity of purpose among all the Parties to the UNFCCC. Thus, let us unite and make bold steps to make our countries and our world resilient to climate change.

We only have one planet and this planet is in our own hands to care and nourish in order for it to care and provide for us in return. The Paris Agreement gives hope to the continuation of life on earth and comprehensively addresses the issue of climate intergenerational justice. Therefore, Namibia is committed to help make COP 24 a huge success in order to save not only the planet Earth but indeed our own lives and that of the future generations.

I Thank You!