

Remarks by the UN Resident Coordinator
Hopolang Phororo

Launch of the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) Process

NAMPOWER Convention Centre
Thursday, 22 June 2023, Windhoek - Namibia

Right Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia
Hon. Obeth Mbuipaha Kandjoze, Director General of the National Planning Commission
Director of Ceremony Ms. Wilhencia Uiras, Executive Director of National Planning Commission
Hon. Ministers and Members of Parliament
Senior Government Officials
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Members of the private sector and civil society
UN Colleagues
Members of the media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations System in Namibia, I bring you greetings and extend our gratitude to the Government of Namibia for the invitation to participate in the launch of the process to launch the formulation of the sixth National Development Plan (NDP 6) . I stand before you with immense pleasure as this auspicious occasion serves as a powerful testament of the Government's steadfast commitment to implementing its long-term development framework (Vision 2030) and the 2030 Agenda, our shared global roadmap for sustainable development.

The launch of the process to formulate the sixth NDP is a great milestone, as its implementation will culminate with the end of Vision 2030 and the 2030 Agenda, thus providing a pathway to assess and evaluate our performance of the development aspirations to be achieved. By so doing, we will be strategically placed to calibrate and formulate new long-term and national development frameworks that will continue to put Namibians at the center of development, Leaving No Namibian Behind.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The National Development Plans have been instrumental in charting the path that Namibia has taken to its desired destination, starting with the 1st National Development Plan in

1995/96 and the 6th NDP that will end in 2030/31. This has been *"to achieve the nation's vision to be a prosperous, industrialized country by 2030..."* Great strides have been made in the fight against poverty and hunger, expanding access to health, education, social protection, country-wide rolling out of Early Childhood Development programmes, amongst others. But considerable challenges still remain in terms of inclusion. For example, many young people and the majority of previously disadvantaged populations continue to face difficult transitions to attaining productive and fulfilling lives. Their prospects for prosperity have, worsened, hindered by the lack of economic transformation and most recently, by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, recurrent droughts, and the ongoing geopolitical Russia/Ukraine conflict. Yet, while communicable diseases remain the leading causes of death, their relative contribution to cause of death has been on a decreasing trend.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 6th National Development Plan is the last stretch of the journey and will need accelerated implementation, if we are to reach Vision 2030. Imagine running the last ten kilometers of a 42km marathon, where we need to muster remaining energy, to finish well. We are only a few years away from 2030, so to cross the finish line... hitting our targets, will require all of us to consolidate human and financial resources, apply ourselves in terms of determination, focus and commitment. We are convinced that Namibia can do it... even in the midst of the negative tailwinds, the future looks promising, in terms of new frontiers for accelerating growth, including the renewable energy sector and leveraging on the benefits of its demographic dividend.

The National Development Plans (NDPs) are of paramount importance to the UN, and we have supported the planning efforts of the Government of Namibia, through the National Planning Commission, with whom we have enjoyed a strong partnership over the years. The plans serve as indispensable tools that facilitate the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The NDPs not only provide a framework for guiding and monitoring progress towards the SDGs, but they also play a vital role in enabling effective policy coordination, promoting international cooperation, raising awareness and fostering global policy dialogue and knowledge sharing. By aligning our own frameworks, the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (SDCF), with the national development plans, we strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and member states, to ensure a shared commitment to sustainable development and the well-being of all people. This strengthened partnership, is also a critical means for ensuring the achievement of government objectives through the national development plan.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is worth highlighting the significant impact of aligning the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) with the national development plans. The current alignment with NDP5 has proven instrumental in addressing Namibia's development challenges and goals. By harmonizing our programmes, initiatives, and support on economic and social transformation, environmental sustainability, and good governance, with the national plans, we have ensured coherence and integration in Namibia's overall development strategy. This alignment has not only enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of our collective

development efforts but has also allowed us to capitalize on synergies, avoid duplication and maximize impact. It exemplifies the power of collaboration and strategic coordination between the United Nations and the Namibian Government.

As we look forward, we recognize that more work still remains to be done with limited resources and we will need to find innovative and smarter ways of working together. Time is not on our side. Therefore, I see this launch of the formulation of the 6th NDP as a turning point not just for Namibia but also at global level. A recent Special Edition Report of the UN Secretary General indicated that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals since 2015 has not been promising; many of the SDGs are moderately to severely off track and a rescue plan for people and the planet and accelerated implementation is needed between now and 2030.

With this at the back of our minds, this launch comes months before the SDG Summit, affording Namibia an opportunity to put the SDGs back on track and secure the breakthroughs and commitment needed to drive SDG acceleration. This will include actions to make SDG achievement a central focus in national planning and oversight mechanisms, as well as to align domestic budgets and financing of the SDGs through an Integrated National Financing Framework, which Namibia is now developing with the support of the UN system. It will allow for a reflection on the pathway to SDG transformation through the identification of areas for investment, a national benchmark to reduce poverty and inequality by 2027 and steps to strengthen institutional arrangements to support SDG acceleration. The forthcoming Census is also strategic, as it will also provide the required data and statistics for monitoring and evaluating NDP implementation and beyond.

The UN in Namibia is excited about this new journey that Namibia is embarking on and allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the National Planning Commission for adopting this inclusive approach for launching the formulation of the NDP6 process. The recognition that this plan must be developed by Namibians attests to the fact that the National Planning Commission embraces inclusivity and stakeholder consultation. The space is being provided for diverse voices and perspectives to be heard and considered in the development planning process, to ensure that no-one is left behind. This all-encompassing approach fosters a sense of ownership and ensures that decisions are not made solely by a select few, but rather by a collective that involves government officials, communities, private sector, civil society, academia, and all other relevant stakeholders. Such a participatory approach sets a strong foundation for sustainable and inclusive development.

Distinguished participants,

In closing, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Government of Namibia, in particular the National Planning Commission, for their leadership and foresight in bringing us together today and for establishing the comprehensive roadmap for the 6th National Development Plan. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to supporting the development and implementation of this plan, knowing that it holds the promise of transforming Namibia into a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable nation. The UN in Namibia remains a trusted and impartial partner of choice providing coordinated, effective

and efficient support for transformative, sustainable and inclusive results to realize the SDGs in Namibia.

Thank you all for your attention and participation in this momentous occasion. Together, let us forge ahead on this collective journey towards a brighter future for all.

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