



STATEMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

BY

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DURING THE SECURITY COUNCIL HIGH LEVEL DEBATE ON

**MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY:
ADDRESSING THE HISTORICAL INJUSTICE AND ENHANCING AFRICA'S
EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.**

**New York, 12 AUGUST
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(CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY)**

Mr President,

- 1. In convening today's meeting, Sierra Leone has demonstrated the zeal to remove the thorn that, for many decades, has inflicted pain in Africa's flesh, a pain underpinned by exclusion, disregard and marginalisation. My delegation commends your wisdom to drive the transformation of global institutions in the right direction.**

- 2. Namibia appreciates the instrumental role played by the Government of Sierra Leone and, specifically, by Your Excellency as coordinator of the C-10, in bringing this discussion to the Council and reminding the Council of this opportune moment to chart a path that will strengthen its ability for enhanced capacity to effectively deliver on its mandate of maintaining international peace and security.**

- 3. Namibian leaders, including my mentor, the illustrious Theo-Ben Gurirab, who served as the 54th President of the General Assembly, have long been advocating for the reform of this instrumental organ of the UN to be more**

representative, inclusive and reflective of the world it serves.

4. It is on their shoulders that I stand today to continue advancing our conviction that the time to adjust the composition of the Council to be fit for present day realities, is long overdue. Namibia has first-hand experience of the inadequacies of this Council when my country had to battle for years for equal and just consideration of our plight against the vagaries of Apartheid, colonialism and injustice. However, in the end, Council came to recognise and support our struggle for freedom and independence. Thus, we can today hold the strong belief in the invaluable role this Council can and must play in the promotion of International Peace and Security.

Mr President,

5. This debate takes place at a time when Africa continues to unambiguously assert that it cannot continue to stand as a passive spectator in the global political field. Imagine the whole continent relegated to the periphery of decision-making and emasculated by disproportionate geopolitical power distribution!

6. By maintaining the status quo, democratic global governance remains elusive and contradicts the most fundamental principles upon which the United Nations is founded. This is undesirable and impedes on our efforts to find a solution that garners the widest possible political acceptance by Member States, taking into consideration the five clusters of reform.

Mr President,

7. Africa appreciates the growing support for the Common African Position and desires more than an acknowledgement that her aspirations are legitimate. With a vast segment of the UN Security Council's agenda pertaining to Africa, it is imperative that the issue of Africa not being represented in the Permanent category of the Council be urgently addressed. Additionally, Africa's demand for two additional non-permanent seats supports our quest for equitable representation on the Council and acknowledges the historical injustice to the continent. The demand is best elucidated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration, which jointly

comprise the Common African Position on Security Council reform. The call for a Council that reflects present-day realities is a march for progress in the world and not a request for a favour to the African continent. Oh, yes! Ours is a voice of reasoning signifying a legitimate plea for justice and advocacy for equality.

- 8. In our pursuit to advance discussions on the reform of the Council, Namibia aligns with the African position that all prerogatives and privileges of permanent membership must be extended to all new members of the permanent category of the Security Council as a matter of common justice.**

- 9. Africa will continue to advocate for the reform of the United Nations and other international institutions, particularly the Security Council, to correct the historical injustice done to a great continent. We cannot keep postponing the fulfilment of the desires of our people who seek to be seen and heard. Equitable geographic representation is an affirmed longstanding commitment of the United Nations. It is time that the extensive resources that have been invested in UN Security Council reform bear fruit. Tangible steps should be taken**

to advance the Council's legitimacy, credibility, and effectiveness.

Mr President,

10. It would be remiss of me not to emphasise the patience Africa has exercised thus far. This patience does not mean acquiescence. However, over time, this is bound to diminish. Africa has a growing youth demographic whose degree of patience is minimal, particularly when their dreams of hope are shattered by the expedient tortoise pace at which the Security Council reform has been addressed. The cracks in the monolith that symbolises democratic governance values are inevitable. Demands are likely to persist for prudent and expeditious action to ensure equitable representation across governance structures and institutions.

11. Let me conclude, Mr. President, by stating that the reform of the UN Security Council remains a matter of high importance, not only to my delegation, or the African people, but to all members of the world community. Let this Council restore trust in its relevance by doing what is just. Let us end the injustice against Africa's exclusion; and let us deliver a Council that truly serves humankind equitably and without discrimination.

I thank you for your kind attention.