

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DR. NICKEY IYAMBO,
MINISTER OF SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA TO THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 52ND
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS,
VIENNA, 11 MARCH 2009**

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you on your election as chairperson of the High Level Segment of the 52nd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

My delegation acknowledges with great appreciation the successful preparation for the work of the session and equally the commendable conclusion of the negotiations of the draft Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which I am informed has been done in a collegiate spirit.

My delegation associates itself with the statements presented on behalf of the African Group and the Group of 77 and China.

The work of the 52nd Session is of great importance to Namibia. The issue of drugs and its trafficking poses a challenge to Namibia, as the country is strategically located between the drug suppliers and drug users. In response to this stark reality, Namibia has implemented a number of initiatives.

Namibia is considering the Combating of the Drug Abuse Bill, which has already served before Parliament and is currently in the process of finalisation before its enactment into law. Namibia has the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, which addresses issues of organised crime.

In addition Namibia we has ratified the SADC Protocol on the Combating of Illicit Drugs.

We have also ratified the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended by the Protocol of 25 March 1972, the Convention on Psychotropic

Substances, 1971. Recently, Namibia has ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.

Madam Chairperson,

In its endeavours to manage and implement the various drug control and management instruments mentioned above, Namibia has adopted the National Drug Control Master Plan, which in essence, is a multi-agency coordinating framework.

The Drug Law Enforcement Unit in the Ministry of Safety and Security regularly visits schools, youth groups and community gatherings, in order to raise awareness on the dangers of drug trafficking and drug abuse. In addition, the Ministry of Health and Social Services carries out education activities on the dangers and risks of HIV/AIDS and alcohol abuse. The same Ministry also runs the National Rehabilitation and Resource Centre, which offers a rehabilitation programme.

In the area of judicial cooperation, Namibia is working within the framework of its domestic legislation, especially its Extradition Act and the Mutual Legal Assistance Act and the International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Act, 2000 (Act No. 9 of 2000). This is an area where admittedly as a developing country, we require capacity building support.

Our difficulties within the domain of drug trafficking falls squarely within the area of enhanced border control. Therefore, to overcome these security challenges, we require financial, technical and material support to complement our efforts to empower our law enforcement capacity in meeting these challenges.

Madam Chairperson,

The fight against drugs is a common and shared responsibility requiring an integrated and balanced approach, and thus call upon the international community to cooperate in countering the increase in illicit drug trafficking as well as the use of women and girls in these illegal activities. Therefore, Namibia will be introducing a particular resolution on Promoting

International Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Drugs, especially the use of women and girls as couriers.

My delegation looks forward to the successful adoption and subsequent implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to counter the World Drug Problem.

I thank you Madam Chair!