

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

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PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

ON THE OCCASION

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE TWENTY-SIX CONFERENCE OF
PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

(COP 26)

GLASGOW, UNITED KINGDOM

2 November 2021

H.E. Alok Sharma- President of COP 26

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Governments

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Climate change and the worsening ecological crisis obey no sovereign boundaries. COP26 is the international community's last chance to collectively overcome the disconnect between a divided international system and a global calamity that threatens us all. Namibia is taking transformative steps towards honoring this responsibility.

Along with the world, Namibia is experiencing widespread and devastating impacts on key facets of our civilization including severe droughts to devastating field fires destroying large tracts of our agricultural land adversely impacting, livelihoods, human health and wellbeing.

For this COP negotiations, there are critical objectives that are crucial to protect us all from the impacts from runaway climate change, breakdown of the biosphere and the death of the world's oceans. It is hard to overstate the urgency and consequence of getting these right.

Namibia is committed to the following objectives for COP26.

- 1. We aim the conclusion and adoption of a robust Article 6 at COP26. This critical step would provide the bedrock of an international carbon market mechanism necessary to drive funds to the places where emissions can be cut most effectively, to mobilize large scale private investment for climate action and to drive crucial innovation. Article 6 cannot wait for another COP.**

- 2. Namibia supports the UN Secretary's General's push to 'consign coal to history'. Namibia will support the phasing out of coal in our region by significantly scaling up solar and wind energy to support domestic demand, whilst working with our neighbors to responsibly phase out existing coal generation in the Southern African Power Pool and transform our region's energy map. This is the single most important step to keeping the Paris Agreement's 1.5C target alive.**

3. In our support for scaling up climate finance, we call for the \$100 billion target for climate finance needs to be surpassed as a target, with a clear roadmap on how the committed amounts will be delivered. We urge for an increased volume of grants, rather than loans, to make it possible for emerging economies carrying high debt burdens to kickstart transformative projects.

Namibia has amplified its 2015 pledge in the Nationally Determined Contributions, we now aspire to reduce our emissions by 91% before the end of this decade. The estimated investment required to achieve this target is approximately USD 5.3 billion, 10% of which is unconditional.

These ambitions are matched by the highest levels of political commitment. The green and blue economy, including a green hydrogen industry, are cornerstones of the Second Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP-II) launched in March this year. Green economy initiatives such as our Southern Corridor Development Initiative will drive a more sustainable, post-COVID recovery.

Tomorrow we will announce how Namibia is unlocking over 5,700 square kilometers in our Karas region for the potential development of green hydrogen and ammonia assets, expected to double the region's employment and triple the installed renewable energy generation capacity for the entire country. We are taking these bold steps to enhance our energy security, decarbonize our country, assist our regional and global peers to reduce their emissions and build a more resilient economy.

The impacts of climate change continue to accelerate and deepen. In this context, we call on other countries to show the highest levels of ambition and commitment possible.

In closing, Namibia urges all COP negotiators to finalize the Paris rulebook, take meaningful action in areas of consigning coal to history, lay the foundations of international carbon markets, and honor and exceed financial commitments made.

I grew up praying for the serenity to accept the things I could not change, sought the courage to change the things in my control and the wisdom to know the difference between the two.

Climate Change is something we can all change – let's muster the courage!

I thank you!