



STATEMENT BY H.E.

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EMBASSY/PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MÖLLER, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
NAMIBIA

29TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
GENEVA, 15 JUNE 2015

Mr. President,
Mr. High Commissioner,
Distinguished delegates,

The delegation of Namibia aligns itself with the statements delivered by Algeria on behalf of the African Group and Iran on behalf of the NAM and welcomes the report by the High Commissioner on the work conducted by his office both here in Geneva and across the world through its field presence.

Mr High Commissioner, we reaffirm our commitment and support to its independence and autonomy of your office. We appreciate the informal briefings provided by you, as this means of engagement provide states with opportunities to address issues of concern on a regular basis and in a conducive manner. Namibia looks forward to the sharing, as soon as possible, with the Council, the outcome of the visits conducted by OHCHR field officers in Western Sahara and refugee settings where Saharawi people are living.

Mr President,

Most humanitarian crises are triggered by human rights violations and abuses. Our hearts go out to the migrants who lose their lives in the bid for a better future. In this regard we welcome the dialogue later today, which should be continuous and which needs to underline the importance of acting on the root causes of this phenomenon. We believe that greater emphasis should be placed on the protection and promotion of human rights with a genuine and sincere commitment to the implementation of these rights on the ground in order to avoid peaceful situations turn into catastrophes for which the HRC should be more adequately funded. As indicated by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the number and nature of crises requiring the attention of and action by the Council and the OHCHR are of such a nature that it puts enormous strain on the resources of this institution.

Mr. President,

During the 28th Session Namibia expressed its concern about the grossly inequitable geographical representation in the Office of the High Commissioner and we would appreciate to hear whether any actions were taken since to rectify the situation.

Mr President,

Namibia acknowledges that there are country situations that require the attention of the Council. We do however call for closer collaboration, constructive dialogue and consensus with the states involved when negotiating the solutions to these situations. We do not believe in imposing solutions to states and we do not believe in violation of sovereignty under the auspices of human rights but encourage the strengthening of national efforts. As states we should all protect and promote the human rights of our people, as it is our primary duty.

Mr President,

Namibia remains steadfast on the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to assert their right to self-determination and continues to call for more commitment from the international community to reach a final solution in this regard. We would also like to again remind the international community of its responsibility to ensure that the right to self-determination for the

people of Western Sahara is respected and implemented, in line with the various United Nations resolutions and declarations.

Lastly, Mr. President,

As we are approaching the negotiations of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, we look forward to including human rights into future SDG's.

I thank you.