



**Statement during the
High-Level Meeting on the Thirtieth Anniversary
of the Fourth World Conference on Women**

**Monday, 22 September 2025,
10h00-20h00, UNGA Hall**

**H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
President of the Republic of Namibia**

Madam President,

Gender equality and women's empowerment have been key priorities for Namibia's government since our independence in 1990. We have shown strong political will through adopting international commitments including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which we domesticated in our national gender policies.

Thirty years ago in Beijing, we affirmed that “Women’s rights were indeed Human Rights”, Since then, Namibia has always built on the strong foundation of this Declaration to draw a strong link on issues related to the women and development nexus. Our progress in the areas of political inclusion and legal reforms are grounded in this and underpin our deep commitment to achieve progress for the empowerment of women.

As a result of this, Namibia closed 81.1 percent of its gender gap, ranking eighth globally and first in Africa as per the 2025 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report. As President, I am proud to highlight our historic milestone: Namibia now has a female president, Vice President, Speaker of the National Assembly and

Secretary General of SWAPO Party, the ruling party in Namibia. It is encouraging to share that women hold 57 percent of cabinet positions and 38.5 percent in the National Assembly, including key ministries like Finance, Health, Education and International Relations and Trade, Education.

As we reflect on our progress we are also aware that our work is far from done. There are areas where there is room for improvement. In our national context, this is mainly in the area of the economic inclusion of women, especially rural women who still remain on the margins of economic activity. Economic challenges persist, limiting access to credit, land, and markets, with 70 percent of informal traders being female, in particular young women. To address this, Namibia's National Gender Equality and Equity Policy 2025-2035 promotes equal access to resources, capacity building, and programs like women-owned micro-enterprises to support women through income generation. Agriculture being an informal economic activity, is supported within its operations by the Agribank of Namibia to assist young people and women who want to venture into agriculture.

On this 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Conference, a Conference I served as the Rapporteur General. Namibia recommits to accelerating the Beijing Declaration by tackling gender-based violence, harmful norms, partnerships, and gender-responsive budgeting as our contribution to the full realization of SDG 5, among others.

I thank you.