

**42ND ANNUAL FORUM OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION
(PGA)**

SECOND INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY OCEANS DAY

ADDRESS BY HON. HAMUNYERA HAMBYUKA

SWAPO PARTY CHIEF WHIP

17 NOVEMBER 2021

Thank you very much for inviting me to speak in this panel. It is a great honor to be here amongst you. It is indeed a privilege to represent my beautiful country Namibia on such a platform and to address an important subject of: *Conserving our oceans to build resilience to climate change – Protecting 30% of the oceans by 2030.*

Namibia's share of the South Atlantic Ocean provides valuable goods and services. It is an important resource for tourism, fisheries, transport & logistics as well as mining.

The fisheries sector is a very important sector in the Namibian economy as it is the third largest contributor to the GDP, followed by mining and tourism, contributing about 15% of total exports. About 16, 300 people are directly employed in the fishing sector, while others are indirectly employed in fisheries related activities such as stevedoring services, fishery-related supplies and logistics. Fisheries also constitute a vital component of domestic food security by providing a source of protein.

The Government of Namibia recognized the effects of climate change on coastal communities and fisheries as contained in the Climate Change Strategy and Action plan 2013 – 2020 under the Theme A1: Food Security and Sustainable Resources. Namibia has thus adopted innovative ways to protect its coastline from litter and any other debris. These include regular patrols involving officials and members of the public, and are further guided by the Marine Resources Act, Act No. 27 of 2000. This has yielded in the reduction of observed debris.

Namibia has deployed various legal, policy and regulatory instruments to ensure the proper management and protection of Namibia's marine and coastal ecosystems.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has strengthened the implementation of the Marine Resources Act, No. 27 of 2000 and Marine Resources Policy of 2004. The Government through the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources embarked on the auctioning of all Governmental Objectives Quotas to enhance transparency.

Namibia through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, which is the coordinating Ministry, is currently busy with Namibia Sustainable Blue Economy draft Policy. This is in line with the National Development Plan (NDP5), where the Government is committed to develop Namibia's

sustainable blue economy policy and systems that maximizes benefits from Marine Resources to ensure equitable Marine wealth distribution to all Namibians.

In addition, a draft Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for Namibia is in place. MSP is a long – term and strategic decision making process that guides where and when human activities occur in the ocean and makes sure the right activity takes place in the right areas, to help facilitate the development of a sustainable blue economy as recognized in the NDP5 benefiting Namibians and the environment alike

Furthermore, Namibia in 2017, ratified the Port State Measure Agreement (PSMA) and is currently complying with the PSMA requirements for all foreign fishing vessels that call at our ports.

Namibia, as a member of the High Level Panel (HLP) for sustainable Ocean Economy, launched the Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy: “A Vision for Protection, Production and Prosperity” document which is a commitment to bold transformations towards a sustainable ocean economy, where environmental protection, conservation, and economic production and prosperity go hand in hand to support the global target to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Namibia has signed a number of international fisheries conventions, agreements and arrangements. These include the 1982 UN Law of the

Sea, the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the 1994 FOA Compliance Agreement to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law.

Namibia has a very effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) programme, which uses, air, sea and land patrols to limit illegal fishing and to ensure the fishing industry follows fisheries regulations as required by the Marine Resources Act, 2000 and Marine Resources Regulations, 2001.

Stock assessment for all commercially harvested fish stocks are performed on an annual basis, with fisheries-specific measures to enhance recovery and aim for ecological management.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Natural Resources is mandated to exercise oversight among others on the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Furthermore, the Committee is to ensure the Line Ministries and agencies promote the sustainable utilization of Namibia's natural resources as well as to monitor the implementation/domestication of international protocols and conventions on natural resources ratified by Namibia.

The Parliamentary Committee of Natural resources hold regular consultation with Line Ministries and in particular the Ministry of

Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

In an effort to raise awareness The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism in collaboration with the Climate Change Adaptation research results in Africa (CLARE-Namibia) convened a short course climate change projections for Namibia. The learning objective of these short courses is to raise awareness and understanding of Namibia's specific climate change projections, implications thereof and International commitments to create and enable action in Namibia.

In conclusion, Namibia is committed to the principle of optimum sustainable and transparent exploitation of marine resources in accordance with the Constitution, the Marine Resources Act of 2000 as well as the Aquaculture Act of 2002.

I thank you.