



UNITED NATIONS  
NAMIBIA



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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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**Talking Points for Mr. Sen Pang, Resident Coordinator, at  
The High-Level Session on: "The Impetus for Planning."  
During the "Capacity Building on Public Policy Development, Review, Evaluation and  
Coordination for the Acceleration of the SDGs in Namibia"  
20 October 2020. 15.30.hrs – 16.30hrs  
Droombos Lodge, Windhoek**

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Director of Ceremonies

First Lady of the Government of Namibia, Mrs. Monica Geingos

Director of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Honourable Obeth Kandjoze,

Executive Director of the National Planning Commission (NPC),

Colleagues from the Division for Sustainable Development Goals at UNDESA,

Honorable and Distinguished Guests,

Dear Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All Protocol observed.

Good afternoon.

It gives me much pleasure to speak on behalf of the United Nations in Namibia at this high-level session on the *"Impetus for Planning."*

First, I wish to congratulate the Namibian government and people for its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence as well as the achievements it has made over the past decades in its economic and social development. I would also wish to congratulate the Namibian government and people for the successful efforts for the containment of the COVID pandemic. My congratulations also go to the

National Planning Commission for your continued leadership and commitment to this joint initiative between NPC, GIZ, UNDESA and UN Namibia.

Our shared goal is to contribute to strengthened policy coordination and coherence for the acceleration of the National Development Plans (NDPs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

A few months ago, this was only an idea. I am pleased that today we are implementing.

In terms of policy planning, I would like to highlight the following: 1) Importance of development planning. 2) data and information collection and analysis. 3) Engagement with stakeholders in the policy planning process. 4). Role of the UN

### **I. Importance of development planning**

For years, there have been abundant theories and experiments about economic planning. A lot for example has been written about the success of the “East Asian Tigers” being attributed to planning. In Africa, countries including Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria, have development planning traced back as far as the early 1940s. Evidence suggests that Africa has experienced stronger growth and social development during periods characterized by planning.

Experience shows that the Invisible hand may or may not work in certain situations. Government plans have successful stories, but in some cases, they may also lead the economy astray.

The COVID challenges prove, that while free market is essential, planning is also indispensable. An organic combination of both, based on the specific conditions of a particular country may be the better option.

Development planning requires strong leadership. It requires flexibility by policy makers in their choice of planning approaches; It also needs political commitment which is vital for nurturing a strong central planning body. Moreover, development planning requires: Inclusive planning; Effective implementation; Monitoring and evaluation for corrective planning.

That is why we hold this workshop today. The principal purpose of the workshop is to focus on **“Capacity Building for Public Policy Development, for the Acceleration of the SDGs in Namibia.”**

## **II. Data and Information Collection and Analysis**

The Mission of the National Planning Commission is “To plan, prioritise and direct national development through effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation by providing advisory services to achieve sustainable socio-economic development.”

In order to “plan, prioritise and direct”, it is a first and essential step to collect and analyze relevant and accurate information in a timely, effective and coordinated manner.

Furthermore, information needs to be collected and analyzed based on evidence to identify problems and priorities so as to provide comprehensive and accurate projections, measures and policy recommendations.

Across the world, economic policies sometimes have to face a certain level of trade-offs with social and environmental policies, and vice versa. Therefore, coordination is required for policies and priorities across different sectors during the course of planning.

Against this background, capacity building for government institutions is very important.

## **III. Engagement and Consultation with Stakeholders**

Stakeholder engagement and consultation help the government to integrate and coordinate policies for the acceleration of the NDPs and the SDGs.

In order to coordinate socio-economic development policies and priorities across different sectors, it is crucial to include, engage and inform a wide range of stakeholders, including the Cabinet, the Parliament, Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs), civil society, private sector, academia, and the general public, in the policy planning process.

## **IV. UN Support**

The UN System in Namibia, jointly with our partners, has been able to support the NPC and Ministries in enhancing institutional and organizational capacity for evidence-based policy formulation, review, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination.

UN Namibia has also been providing support the GRN to promote engagement and consultation with a diversity of partners and stakeholders.

I want to reiterate the full commitment of the UN family to assist the GRN, NPC in particular, in its efforts to realize its important mandate. I wish you all an excellent workshop with fruitful discussions and cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.\*\*\*