



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations  
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**STATEMENT BY**  
**HON. MARLENE MUNGUNDA, MINISTER OF GENDER EQUALITY**  
**AND CHILD WELFARE**  
**AT THE REVIEW BY THE CEDAW COMMITTEE ON NAMIBIA'S 2<sup>ND</sup>**

Madam Chairperson

Distinguished members of the Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a special honour for me, on behalf of my delegation, to present/introduce Namibia's 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> combined periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

First and foremost, I wish to congratulate you, Madam Chairperson, and all elected members of the Committee on CEDAW.

I also wish to take this opportunity to extend, on behalf of the Government of Namibia, our sincere

— — — — — M. D. K. M. C. — — — — — his appointment as Secretary General of the

In terms of Art 18 (a) of the Convention, Namibia has submitted her first report in December

1995. However, due to limited resources, we did not submit our second periodic report to the

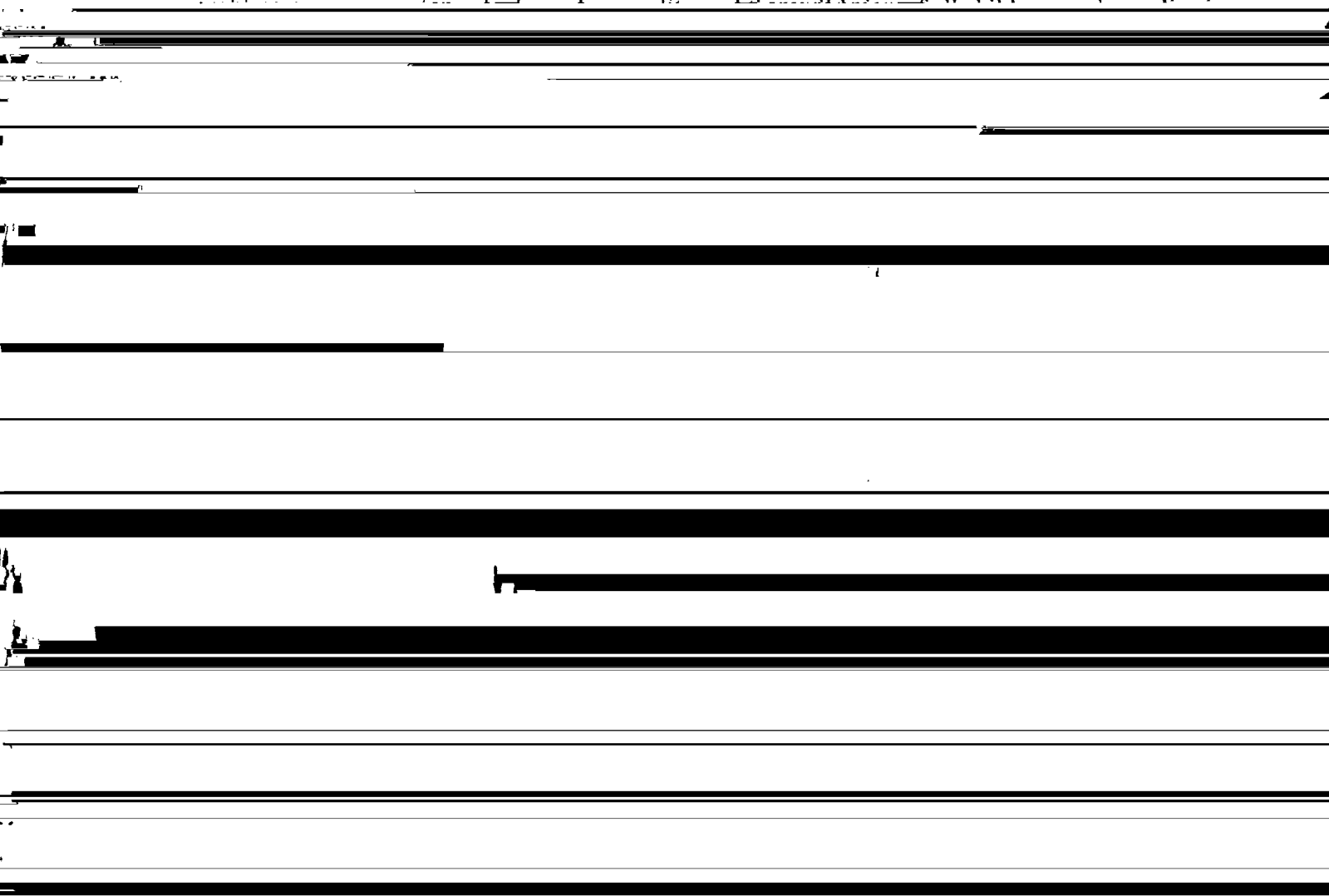
Secretary General of the United Nations as required in terms of Article 18(b) of the Convention.

Hence I have the honour to present to the Committee our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> combined periodic reports.

The Report consists of two parts: Introductory Section in Part I which provides the background

During the period under review, the Department of Women Affairs was elevated to a full-fledged Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare in 2000, which has been changed in 2005 as the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare. The elevation of the Department to a Ministry is a demonstration of the political will of the Namibian Government to address the issue of gender equality and women empowerment at a higher level.

The mandate of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is to create and ensure an



The establishment of this Ministry is therefore a holistic response to the many varying challenges of empowering women and highlighting children's concern, protecting their rights and advocating for change in traditional practices and attitudes, which deny them equal access to opportunities to realize the attainment of their potentials and aspirations.

There has been an increase of women in parliament from 20% to 27% after the general elections in 2004. For the first time, Namibia has appointed a woman Deputy-Prime Minister, a woman Deputy-Speaker of the National Assembly, a woman Deputy Chairperson of the National Council, a woman Minister of Justice and Attorney General, a woman Minister of Finance. Namibia has

The Government through the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare is addressing the

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The Government through the Ministry of Trade and Industry and MGECW has programmes in place, which encourage women to design projects with the assistance of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). The government further encourages private sectors, especially financial institutions to provide financial assistance to women in order to create self-employment projects.

In order to alleviate poverty in rural areas, the Government through the Ministry of Regional and

Local Government have established Regional Development Committees (RDCs) in 1991.

Madam Chairperson

From the preceding it is clear that Namibia has made significant progress in programmes since our last periodic review. However, challenges to achieve full gender equality still exist. Indeed much more will be done, and we believe that much will be achieved in light of the commitment and the enabling environment created by the Government of Namibia. The challenge is to maximize the advantage of this momentum to keep women issues on the front banner. The Government of Namibia will therefore continue to adopt measures and initiatives that progressively propel us towards the successful achievement of women empowerment, gender equality and equity, thereby implementing our obligations under CEDAW.

In conclusion Madam Chairperson, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia I would like to extend our appreciation to all UN Agencies and other Development Partners for the technical and financial support.

Madam Chairperson, members of the Committee, I will take this opportunity to bless you with unlimited success for the supernatural assistance of the Holy Spirit.

" discrimination against women in all countries.