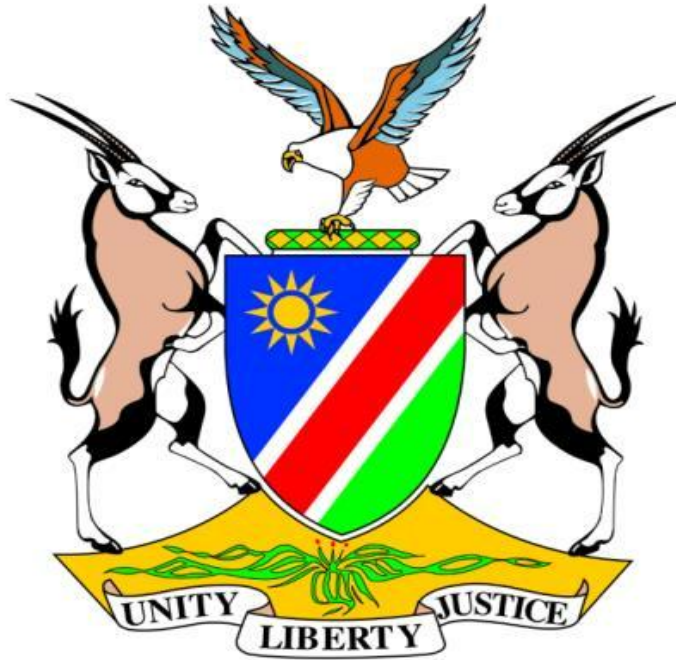


# **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



## **NATIONAL STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY ALBERTUS AOCHAMUB,**

**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT DELEGATE**

**AT THE 6<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**8-9 June 2020**

**Paris**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. *Namibia acknowledges* the extraordinary efforts of UNESCO's men and women on the frontline to keep our Organisation functioning to the best of its ability under the able leadership of our Director General, Madame Azoulay. These are special times and your special efforts are being noted and appreciated as we combat the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. We further *commend* all the efforts being made by UNESCO to upscale and mobilise increased resources for our existing programmatic activities within the various thematic areas. Now is the time to accelerate the pace of delivery of essential services to all our citizens the world over and eliminate duplication of efforts wherever we find them. To that end, it is our considered position that we should not commence any new, wasteful and grand projects that put a further strain on already meagre resources at our disposal.

Mr, Chairman,

3. Namibia also *appreciates* the work of UNESCO on SDG-4, and emphasizes the need to ensure continued provision of equitable and quality education despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19. We *note* UNESCO's drive to strengthen the use of ICTs in education, and wish to *advocate* for the rebuilding of a strong and locally adapted National Distance Learning System.
4. We especially *applaud* the efforts of our Regional Office in Harare, Zimbabwe and that of the Windhoek Field Office as we collaborate within the framework of our stated national priorities. Given the loss of a number of jobs in one of the mainstays of our economy, namely Tourism, the development of a strategy on "*Heritage Tourism and Employment Opportunities at Community Level*" comes at an opportune time. This initiative will involve our sister organisation, the UNWTO, and further speaks volumes of a UN system dedicated to deliver value to the communities it serves in an integrated fashion. We look forward to the successful implementation of this noble drive.

5. Finally, may we *commend* the collective work of Member States of UNESCO and of its Executive Board in showing the relevance of UNESCO during these challenging times.
6. Mr. President, your able leadership will be critical as we pool all energies and resources to deliver on our mandate as the *intellectual and creative* hub of the World.
7. We wish you well and thank you for your kind attention.

**End/**