



**Statement by Her Excellency, Selma Ashipala –Musavyi,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia to UNIDO,
at the 13th General Conference of UNIDO,
Vienna, Austria
09 December 2009**

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset allow me to join those who have preceded me in congratulating you Mr. President and the other members of the Bureau for assuming the presidency of the 13th General Conference of UNIDO. My delegation wishes to express its full confidence in your tested ability to lead this conference to a success. You can rest assured of our support and cooperation during your tenure. My delegation thank the out-going President the Ambassador of Morocco for the efforts in preparing for this session. We congratulate the Director General Dr. Kandeh Yumkella for his well deserved re-election for a second term. Dr. Yumkella, we the member states have once again placed in you our collective trust and confidence to continue to lead UNIDO-our organization to even great heights. We are doing so at a time when the

countries for which this organization was created are hard hit by the International Financial crisis coupled with the devastating effects of the climate change as a result of our vulnerability. Therefore, I can only reiterate the call of the Director General to the Member States, as well as the Private Sector to continue to effectively support the efforts and Programmes of UNIDO so that it can promote and accelerate industrial development in developing countries.

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

Namibia's industrialization path is guided by development plans with an ultimate objective of attaining industrialized status by 2030. We have adopted SME development as our chosen approach to industrialization for, it ensures linkages within the economy, contributes enormously to job creation and eventual poverty reduction. Like other development economies, the Namibian economy is characterized by extractive mineral activities and export of primary products. This situation is unsustainable and exposes the economy to external shocks. In order to ensure sustainability and wealth creation we have to continue developing our manufacturing sector to add value to our resources utilizing the best available industrial development methods or approaches.

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

My delegation deems it appropriate to thank the Director General and his staff for raising awareness for the untapped industrialization potential in Africa through the promotion of North-South and South-South cooperation. Namibia like many developing countries has benefited from UNIDO's programmes over the years in the **leather sector**, which is critical to development due to its integrating linkages within the economy. Another area is **Competitiveness Enhancement** under which service providers were trained to provide advisory services to small business and this resulted in improved performance of small businesses. In addition, the **entrepreneurship programme** has been incorporated in the formal school curriculum for grade 8 and 9 and this year alone more than 90 000 students enrolled in the course. The introduction of entrepreneurship would lead to a reduction in the number of job seekers and unemployed youth as this would enable graduates to start new businesses and create employment.

Within the regional framework Namibia is actively committed to the implementation of the **Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Program (IUMP)** a UNIDO program aimed at addressing supply side constraints at firm level to improve productive capacity in the economy. To this end, we are currently developing our country program and implementation is expected to start in April 2010. Namibia strongly believes that the above interventions are essential in order to address the supply side capacity constraints to meaningfully participate in international trade.

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

The global financial crisis did not spare the Namibian economy. The abrupt fall in the world demand for our primary products resulted in vast job losses especially in the diamond industry. The ramification of this negative phenomenon also affected related industries in the economy leading to low level of economic activities and its resultant adverse social and economic fallout which calls for a meaningful and effective response.

Namibia like other economies in the SADC region faces the double challenge of regional integration and globalization. The challenge for SADC countries as stated in its Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), is to create an environment that is conducive to the attainment of high and sustained economic growth by overcoming the constraints of underdevelopment and dependency on primary sector's production. In order to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by trading systems we need to strengthen our fragile manufacturing sector so as to create and enhance sustainable industrial development. We call on UNIDO for technical assistance in the implementation of our Industrial Upgrading and Modernization program in areas such as energy efficiency in all sectors, development of a quality system to enhance competitiveness, improvement of our industrial statistic system, food safety system i.e meat processing and fruits and vegetables, agro industry, development of dairy industry, textile and garment, investment promotion strategies, employment program for the youth and revitalization of the leather industry.

Our industrial policy is currently being developed of course taking cognizance of the SADC wide industrial development policy. The successful integration of the SADC region will add value to the subsequent integration of the African community. We cannot talk about Africa's industrialization however, without emphasizing the economic empowerment of women and girls, as we forge ahead with our industrial efforts it is essential that we mainstream a gender perspective in our industrialization policies and programmes. We would again like to call on UNIDO's assistance in this regard.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our development partners for their valuable development assistance that we continue to enjoy including the assistance we receive from the European Union.

In conclusion, Mr. President, on behalf of my delegation and indeed on my own behalf, I wish to commend the efforts made by UNIDO to harness resources to foster sustainable industrial development especially in developing economies.

I thank you for your attention.