

Opening Statement: Amb. Hückmann German Namibian Negotiations on Development Cooperation 2013, Swakopmund, 21. November 2013.

Dear Mr. Hungamo, Permanent Secretary of the National Planning Commission

Dear Mr. Goeiemann, Chief Development Advisor of the National Planning Commission

Dear Representatives from the Line Ministries,

Dear Mr. Schneider, Head of the Southern Africa Division of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, dear delegation from Germany

Dear Markus Theobald, Minister Counsellor at the EU Delegation in Windhoek

Dear Colleagues

I am very honoured to be here with you today, looking back at the eventful months for the Namibian-German cooperation that have passed since our last Consultations in February of 2013.

Namibia and Germany share a common history due to which our two countries are closely bound. Since Namibia's independence 23 years ago, we have enjoyed an extremely intense and fruitful partnership, which has been underpinned by a very successful development cooperation. The bilateral relationship between our two countries has further unfolded in constructive political dialogue, as well as in the fields of trade and investment, culture, education, and science.

In January of this year, Honourable Foreign Minister, Mrs. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah visited Berlin as her first official stop outside Africa and in March the Namibian-German Parliamentary Friendship Group was guest in our capital city.

The University of Namibia and the Polytechnic in Windhoek are both closely connected with numerous German institutes of higher education. They cooperate in student and staff exchange and research, thus contributing to scientific excellence and mutual understanding in both countries. Last month, the UNAM School of Medicine hosted the 1st International Symposium on tuberculosis and HIV in Namibia in close cooperation with the University of Lübeck and the German research centre Borstel.

In March, the Centre on Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) was established. It combines the scientific efforts of five countries in the region with German expertise.

In addressing climate change, Namibia further hosted the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification. I am proud that Germany could contribute to the preparation and implementation of the COP 11, which proved to be a great success.

These are just a few examples of the numerous successful endeavours in which Namibia and Germany have worked together during this year.

Both our countries have profited and learned a lot from those partnerships and I am confident, that the ties between Namibian and German private and official institutions in many fields of cooperation will foster and intensify in the future.

On the Government level, our countries' close cooperation has equally continued.

The forthcoming negotiations permit us to exchange on what we have achieved, to assess where we stand, and to formulate in which direction our partnership should evolve in the years to come.

Allow me, dear Permanent Secretary, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen to assure you the full support of my Embassy to develop our bilateral relationship further. I wish all of us constructive, open, and transparent discussions over the next one and a half days.

Thank you very much!

Anlage 1: