

**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION AT THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL SIGN-OFF OF THE 2011-
2012 UNDAF EXTENSION**

Ms. Karrie Egge, United Nations Resident Coordinator
Ambassadors and heads of various specialized UN Agencies
Ladies and Gentlemen
Members of the Media

I am pleased to welcome all of you to the NPC. This press conference is called to witness the signing of the extension of United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) that was supposed to have ended this year.

Today the United Nation is the most representative inter-governmental institution. As such, it is only right that the UN's objectives are, among others, to facilitate international cooperation in international security, economic development, social progress, human rights, and the achievement of world peace. As a member of the United Nations, we have been engaging with the UN on various issues, especially the achievement of the Millennium Agreed Development Goals.

Our engagement with the UN has been based on what is referred to as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The current Framework covers a period of five years, starting in 2006 and was envisaged to end this year and the financial resources so far used are in the region of N\$490m. The Framework is the strategic response by the UN to guide integrated programming among the UN Agencies working in Namibia to support the Government and civil societies.

The important feature of the engagement is that the UN is assisting us to achieve our own programs such as those envisaged in Vision 2030 and the MDGs. The Framework enables the UN system to focus its collective strength to contribute to our efforts to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS, to increase household food security and to enhance institutional capacities to deliver essential services.

The Framework has three outcomes. First, to strengthen the HIV/AIDS response through increased access to prevention, treatment, care and impact mitigation services especially for vulnerable groups; second, to improve the livelihoods and food security among most vulnerable groups; third, strengthen the capacity of the Government and civil society institutions to deliver public services for health, education, promotion and empowerment of women, crisis prevention and leadership development towards the achievement of the MDGs.

As I have said the Framework was supposed to have ended this year. However, after a joint evaluation by the UN and the Government, it was agreed to extend the Framework by two years. The budget for the two-year extension is estimated to an amount of N\$332m. The main reason for the extension is that more still need to be done in advancing the three outcomes of the Framework. It was also thought correct to align the timing of the Framework with that of the Government's planning cycle. Other important adjustments that are necessary are, for example, to align the Framework strategies and targets to the New National Strategic Framework on HIV and Aids, where more emphasis is on the most vulnerable groups and the inclusion of new outputs such as Gender Mainstreaming and Emergency Preparedness and Response.

On behalf of all the Namibians, I wish to thank Ms Karrie Egge, the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and all the UN Agencies for the work that have gone into the preparation of the UNDAF extension and for assisting in the mobilization of the required resources. We are making good progress towards the realization of some of the MDG targets. However, we also know that we need to do much more to reduce poverty, the prevalence of HIV, infant mortality, and improving maternal health.

Let me use this opportunity to raise another important issue in our relationship with the UN looking ahead. We are all aware that there are plans for the UN to reform its system of delivery. What is being hoped for is a system where the UN delivers its services to its members as one, commonly known as the "Delivering as One" approach. In essence what this means is that the engagement with the UN will be with one UN office, as opposed to directly engaging with all the UN agencies, as it is the case today. I believe that this is an approach that needs support from all of us. Not only will this approach increase the UN's impact through more coherent programs, but it will also reduce transaction costs to recipient governments. I therefore look forward to engage with you as we deliberate on the best way to achieve the "Delivering as One" approach.