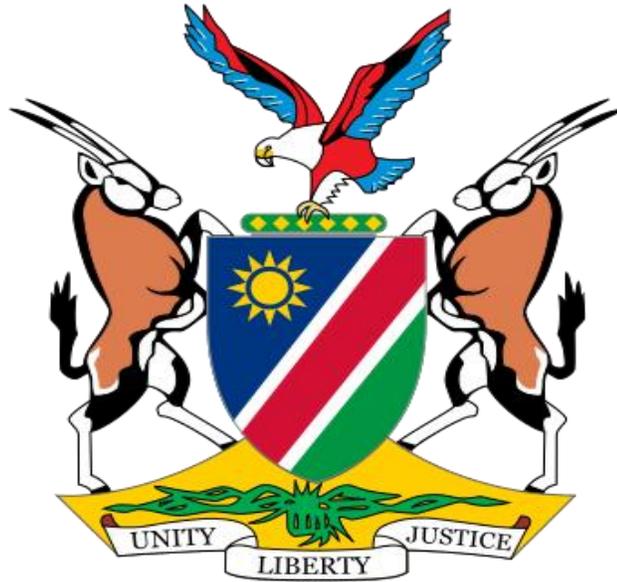


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

**STATEMENT AT THE 27TH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(CCPCJ)**

14 May 2018

All media

Vienna, Austria

1. **Hon. Sakeus Shanghala, MP, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Namibia attended the 27th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and delivered a statement on 14 May 2018 in Vienna, Austria.**
2. Honorable Shanghala congratulated the Chairperson and Bureau on their election for this session and welcomed the prominent theme for this session of the CCPCJ – *“Criminal justice responses to prevent and counter cybercrime in all its forms, including through the strengthening of cooperation at the national level and international levels”*.
3. He reiterated Namibia’s serious concern regarding the threats of cybercrime to cyber security and hence appreciate the significance of the ongoing thematic discussion, which we believe provides an opportunity to all States Parties to exchange views on related issues.
4. He stated that Namibia has experienced cyber-attacks in the realm of electronic banking transactions and this prompted us to come up with a draft Bill on Electronic Transactions and Cybercrime. Due to rapidly evolving technologies this legislation needs to be drafted flexibly, taking into account the need for legal certainty and precision, while catering for our ability to cooperate with other States on matters of jurisdiction. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Inter-Governmental Expert Group on Cybercrime to conduct a comprehensive study on the problem of Cybercrime and indicated that Namibia will continue supporting the Group. The Group functions as the platform for further discussion on substantive issues of cybercrime and cyber security. He highlighted that it is a reality that the longer we as States take to come up with a synergized approach to tackle this phenomenon at national and international levels, the greater the opportunities for those, whose activities we are trying to combat, to profit from their

clandestine activities. Honorable Shanghala acknowledged that our main challenge currently, is the fact that we are already lagging behind the criminal networks and that a short-sighted and restrictive approach in this regard poses a serious challenge to progress. As States, our shared objective should be to find common standards that will enable us to effectively criminalize cybercrime.

5. Honorable Shanghala cited the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ which affirms explicitly "*there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development*". In light of this affirmation, we all have to join forces to reduce conflict, violent crimes, discrimination and more importantly, we have to employ all our efforts to ensure inclusion and good governance in our respective jurisdictions. We should foster and nurture a culture of shared responsibility as set out in our objectives. This is the only way in which we will successfully implement the SDG's. This platform and other mandates created by the UNODC are vital for such efforts and we commend the UNODC for its relentless efforts in this regard.
6. The increasingly prevalent links between terrorist activities and transnational organized crime was cited as a serious concern for Namibia, as the rise in terrorism and terrorist activities is becoming one of the major threats to the peace and stability within the African Region and the world at large. Namibia appealed to the UNODC and the State Parties to focus on tracking the perpetrators, especially the financiers of these acts and bringing them to justice.
7. The Minister also reminded the meeting that in the past few years, hundreds of immigrants, mostly from Africa perished in the Mediterranean Sea, because of the lucrative business of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants..

¹ A/RES/70/1-Transforming our world: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He stressed that the world needs concerted efforts to put an end to this scourge, which might include establishing a working group specifically dealing with this.

8. Honourable Shanghala further indicated that the impact on the environment, which is brought about by the smuggling of oil, rhino poaching and illegal fishing in the exclusive economic zones of African coastal States by various actors, including Transnational Corporations, is a big concern, which would require a global response. Namibia therefore encourages Member States to highlight the urgent need for the use of existing mechanisms to improve international co-operation to disrupt transnational criminal networks involved in wildlife and forest crime; and investigate and prosecute money laundering and corruption associated with these types of crime.
9. He said that as a small nation with very limited expertise, human and financial resources and vast numbers of wildlife, Namibia is particularly exposed to wildlife crime. The increase in poaching cases in Namibia is devastating and we invite the international community to assist us to expose the organizations and persons who are orchestrating the syndicates operating in our country.
10. We are acutely aware of the fact that criminal groups use, to their advantage, gaps in legal and regulatory frameworks, weaknesses in capacity and the lack of resources of regulatory, enforcement and criminal justice officials, as well as difficulties in international cooperation. To this extent, Namibia has embarked upon a reform of its criminal justice sector in order to find more effective methods of dealing with these cases.
11. Honorable Shanghala thanked the UNODC Secretariat for the good work done in preparation of the session and wished the session fruitful deliberations.

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