



**Ministry of Justice  
Republic of Namibia**



**Ministry of Justice  
Russian Federation**

## **JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

### **ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF H.E MR. ALEXANDER KONOVALOV, MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA – ISSUED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

Following a request, received via diplomatic channels, by H.E. Alexander Konovalov, Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation to meet with Dr. Albert Kawana, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Namibia, the respective authorities have agreed for the meeting to take place today in Windhoek.

Namibia and Russia share a long history of political solidarity during the time of Namibia's struggle for independence and continued to have conducive diplomatic relations until today. Therefore, it is an honor and privilege for both countries to have this momentous meeting today to discuss matters of mutual interest in the legal field.

International cooperation between States in legal matters is necessitated by the fact that crime knows no boundaries, especially transnational organized crime. Further to this, the movement of persons result in engagement in various fields, including commercial and private activities.

In light of this it is crucial for countries across the world, including Namibia and Russia to forge relationships, based on mutually accepted terms, to be able to assist each other to investigate crimes by providing evidence when needed and to be able to execute any other request for legal assistance as the need may arise based on the agreements concluded.

The types of mutual legal assistance vary from exchanging of information to service of documents, extradition of persons and also the transfer of persons sentenced to deprivation of liberty. All of the above matters impacts upon the legal processes as set out in the domestic laws of respective countries and also as set out in international agreements binding upon States and enabling such States to assist each other in overcoming the jurisdictional obstacles.

To this extend, Namibia and Russia have embarked upon this process of putting in place treaties that relate to mutual legal assistance in legal matters, extradition and transfer of persons sentenced to deprivation of liberty. Many discussions have preceded this meeting today and our respective legal teams have worked tirelessly on the ground to finalize the treaties.

We trust that conclusion of the said treaties will contribute significantly to our bilateral cooperation in legal matters.

---