



STATEMENT BY

HONOURABLE PROF. PETER H. KATJAVIVI, MP

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

&

LEADER OF THE NAMIBIAN DELEGATION

DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE

AT THE

147TH IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

UNDER THE THEME:

***"PARLIAMENTARY ACTION FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS"***

TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2023

**LUANDA,
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

Check Against Delivery

**President of the Assembly,
Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the IPU,
Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU,
Members of the IPU Member Parliaments,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Firstly, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the IPU and our gracious host, the Parliament of Angola, for the warmth welcoming to this beautiful City of Luanda. It is indeed an honor for me and my delegation to be here. At this juncture, I would like to acknowledge the pivotal role the government and the people of Angola played during the struggle for Namibia's independence and freedom, and particularly the historic Battle of Cuito Cuanavale, here in Angola between 1987 and 1989. This was the biggest conventional battle on the African continent since World War II, which made it possible for our country to achieve independence. We will forever remain indebted to the unwavering support, we received from the people of Angola.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On an unrelated note, we are particularly concern about the ongoing conflict Israel and Hamas. The escalation of this conflict is raising particular humanitarian challenges and we appeal for de-

escalation and a need for dialogue to pave way for a humanitarian corridor allowing in essential supplies. We fundamentally support a permanent two – state solution to be found to this crisis within the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Honourable President,

Honourable Members,

The theme of this 147th IPU Assembly, "*Parliamentary Action for Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions,*" resonates deeply with the ideals of the Namibian Parliament and our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal Number 16. It reminds us of our responsibility as legislators to enact laws that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of our people.

Peace is the cornerstone of any development, and we have witnessed the dire consequences of its absence in conflict-ridden parts of the world. Human lives are lost, and countless others are displaced, particularly women and children who bear the brunt of these man-made disasters. This is a path we must change. We must adopt a multi-sectoral approach to address the scourge of instability tearing at our moral fabric.

Mr. President,

Honourable Members,

As parliamentarians, we play a crucial role in promoting human rights, inclusivity, and combating corruption through legislation and vigilant oversight. Peace and sustainable development are intrinsically linked, and it is incumbent upon us to create an environment that fosters both. We can bridge the gap between governments and citizens through transparency and accountability, thereby promoting democracy.

Inclusive planning, involving civil society and the private sector, is paramount in achieving social, economic, and political development. Namibia, having emerged from a history of struggle, places great emphasis on peace and justice for all. Our constitution guarantees human rights and freedoms, forming the foundation for sustainable development. It obliges the government to uphold the rule of law, peace, security, social justice, and economic welfare.

Namibia is committed to maintaining a multi-party democracy, allowing diverse perspectives and ideas to thrive. We conduct regular elections and have initiated the Children's Parliament, giving young people a voice in the democratic process. This participatory approach has led to legislative changes in favor of children's welfare.

Honourable President,

Honourable Members,

Despite being one of the world's most unequal societies, Namibia has adopted initiatives to rectify this inherited inequality. We have integrated the SDGs into our national development plans and engage in annual reviews, with parliament playing a critical role in holding the executive accountable.

Numerous legislations have been passed to promote peace, justice, and strong national institutions. From social protection grants to affirmative action, we have made strides in gender representation, with 47% of our parliament consisting of women. We strive to provide free primary education and have enacted the protection of whistle-blowers law, as well as ensuring transparency and accountability in public services.

Our commitment to justice is evident through acts combating domestic violence, rape, and amendments to promote access to justice for all. Our *Access to Information Act* enhances transparency and accountability.

Honourable President,

Honourable Members,

As parliamentarians, we are entrusted with the task of turning the aspirations of our people into reality through the laws we enact and our oversight of the Executive. By doing so, we improve livelihoods, enhance efficiency, and contribute to the successful

attainment of the SDGs. These global frameworks call for peace, security, and stability as prerequisites for sustainable development.

As member countries, we must mobilize resources to eradicate poverty, inequality, and other vices that threaten our stability. Together, we can create a world of peace, justice, and strong institutions, paving the way for prosperity and well-being for all.

Thank you.