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# **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

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## **ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS ON NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO FULFILL THE PROMISE AND THE OBJECTIVE ENSHRINED IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENTS**

**Input by Hon. Petrus N. Ilonga,  
Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism  
Round Table Session  
UNFCCC Conference of the Parties  
Milan, Italy, December 10, 2004**

1. Mr. President, co-chairs, fellow ministers and other delegates, it is my pleasure to participate in this round table on the assessment of progress on national, regional and international levels to fulfill the promise and the objective enshrined in the climate change agreements. Mr. President let me first congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of COP9 .
2. Mr. President, the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol have provided the framework agreements that govern the initiation and adoption of policies and measures to address climate change. The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held last year August in Johannesburg, <sup>RSA</sup> provided a useful review of progress on climate change. Further the linkage of climate change to sustainable development has been firmly endorsed by this Conference of Parties one year ago in the form of the Delhi Declaration.

## NATIONAL LEVEL PROGRESS

3. Mr. President on the national level, our country Namibia has made some progress:
- we have completed our Initial National Communication
  - we have ratified the Kyoto Protocol
  - we have taken some significant steps towards the implementation of the Article 6 work program.
  - we have taken the steps to facilitate institutional development and capacity building for climate change

## REGIONAL LEVEL PROGRESS

4. Mr. President, the African Group of countries within this Convention contains proportionally more of the least developed country Parties than any other regional group of this Convention. We also possess a very high proportion of those States classified as highly vulnerable to climate change and its effects. It is these countries, among others, that the Convention was designed to help with policies and measures for adaptation. Article 4.8 and 4.9 are very clear on this matter and I daresay that in most instances we have not made much progress in fulfilling the intent and spirit of the Convention. We are not moving forward on the principle of equal but differentiated responsibility.
5. We are still waiting for the Special Climate Change Fund to come into operation. Decision of COP 8 requires that we make operational that Fund immediately after this conference. It is not clear at this time that we will achieve that goal.
6. The Kyoto Protocol and its attendant financing and other mechanisms now seem almost a dream that is fast disappearing because of the failure of some Annex 1 Parties to ratify the Protocol.
7. Article 6 of the Convention has made progress in the development of a work program. But we need to move forward on the development and implementation of a five-year program to train climate scientists and managers in non-Annex 1 countries in order to build capacity to adapt and to mitigate climate change effects.
8. I put it to this esteemed body that we must accelerate our efforts to assist the Africa region in particular and non-Annex 1 Parties in