STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. NEVILLE GERTZE, AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON DISARMAMENT MACHINERY OF FIRST COMMITTEE

NEW YORK
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Namibia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Zambia, respectively.

We wish to express concern on the slow movement in the multilateral disarmament process especially within the Conference on Disarmament (CD). While we realize the crucial role of the CD, being the only multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, we are concerned by the deadlock on agreeing on its Programme of Work.

There is need to revitalize the multilateral disarmament institutions and forums that are entrusted with disarmament and non-proliferation. This can be done by improving coordination between these institutions and by availing necessary expertise to them.

The effectiveness of the United Nations disarmament machinery and its instruments require all Member States to show political will and to engage in all issues of international security and politics in a transparent manner. We should therefore be proactive and committed in our endeavors to promote disarmament for the benefit of all.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN Secretary-General’s agenda for Disarmament recognizes that gender perspectives make arms, control, disarmament and non-proliferation more effective. Namibia therefore strongly believes that as we promote disarmament, we must take into consideration the key roles that ordinary, women, men, girls and boys can play and also how they can be affected by armed conflicts and the availability of weapons among societies.

To us, gender being a cross-cutting issue, has direct importance to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
Finally, we welcome and commend the Secretary-General’s disarmament agenda of “Securing Our Common Future”. We believe that with the SG’s Agenda, together we will be able to prevent rust from accumulating in the disarmament machinery. Once this requires political will from all of us.

I thank you.