

**Distinguished invited guests of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs!**

**Mr. Christian Weber, President of the Parliament of the Bremen Federal State and the Patron of the Board of Trustees of Freedom for the West Saharawi Association!**

**Professor Dr. Manfred Hinz – The Spokesperson of the Advisory Board of Freedom for the West Saharawi Association!**

**Mr. Gunther Hilliges – the Moderator of this very important Conference on Western Saharawi Referendum Now! Which is the International Meeting of Experts Promoting the Political Process!**

**Your Excellency Mr. Mohamed Sidati – the Polisario Representative to the EU Parliament!**

**Our dear brothers and sisters of the West Sahara Arab Democratic Republic!**

**Distinguished invited guests!**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It's a great honor and privilege to speak to you today, at this very important International Conference, calling for a Referendum now in Western Sahara! With a single clear objective to promote the political process for the last colony on our continent. As you all are aware, that Namibia and Western Sahara were the last two colonies to be decolonized on our continent.

However, Namibia, through supreme sacrifices of our heroes and heroines, combined with the vital material and moral support from the international community – including the Federal Republic of Germany as a member of the Western Contac Group, Our country was finally liberated from the colonial brutal and inhumane Yoke of the obnoxious apartheid regime in 1990.

In this context, it is imperative for us to continue emphasizing that our decolonization is incomplete, if the last colony – the people of Western Saharawi are still denied their inalienable right to take their rightful place in the community of free nations of the world.

Namibia's policy position on Western Sahara is crystal clear and it is supported by many countries in the global village, including international actors such as the AU and the European Parliament. This principled policy on Western Sahara is an extension of the core basic values and principles of our people's and humanity's human rights. It is **not** a bilateral issue between Namibia and Morocco, but a matter of unfinished decolonization on our continent.

### **Distinguished invited guests,**

The Saharawi people are fighting for independence for nearly 40 years. Give them the opportunity to choose by a referendum now! Therefore, Namibia will continue to call for the full implementation of all relevant AU and UN Resolutions on Western Sahara and Palestine as this is a fundamental issue in Namibian society, this was reflected by Honorable Rosalia Nghidinwa, Namibian Minister for Gender Equality & Child Welfare, during the last Ministerial lecture on African Agenda 2063, at Rundu, Namibia.

We recall that fateful day on 31 October 1977, when the Kingdom of Morocco sent its army into Western Sahara and attacked the resident nationalist movement – the Polisario Front, in a bloody massacre which marked the beginning of extreme subjugation of the Western Saharawi people.

This was in stark breach of the principles of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which was formed to de-colonize Africa and resulted in them leaving the OAU in 1984, claiming that they left the OAU in protest for its recognition of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and the Polisario Front as the sole legitimate government of Western Sahara.

### **Mr. Moderator,**

Namibia has its concern about recent reports that deals in the fisheries and petroleum exploitation sector have either concluded or are in the pipeline, to exploit Western Sahara under the laws of the illegal occupation of Morocco. We are also aware that Morocco tried several times to re-join the African Union (AU), without implementing AU & UN resolutions on Western Sahara. This is just **not** acceptable!



In this regard, Namibia remains steadfast in her efforts to support of the people of Western Sahara. We therefore, call on the entire international community to support all efforts to bring amend to the suffering and unnecessarily high toll loss of life of the Western Saharawi people. The occupation forces have erected “another apartheid wall” over the Western Sahara – only this time the wall is cordoning of the areas occupied by Moroccans that are often areas with more natural resources.

In this regard, Namibia had last October sent a 38-member delegation to Algeria to hand over humanitarian aid to women and children living in the Saharawi refugee camps in Tindouf. The delegation visited the Saharawi refugee camps from 6 - 9 October 2014.

Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, who was part of the delegation, was quoted saying that the United Nations and the African Union need to speed up the decolonization of Western Sahara, by implementing international law, and accelerating the organization of a free and democratic referendum of self-determination for the Sahrawi people.

The old age colonial subjugation of the African people by other nations must come to an end now. The international community cannot afford selective morality by effectively dealing with all other conflicts in Europe while turning a blind eye on the suffering Saharawi people and colonial plunder and vicious exploitation of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic by Morocco.

With these few words, I wish to assure our brothers and sisters, of the Saharawi people, that Namibia stands unwaveringly by their side and that your struggle is a struggle for Africa’s complete de-colonization, therefore, our own struggle too. Namibia is looking forward to the day that we can say; all African people, have now won their right to self-determination and that the people of our continent can now determine their own destiny and take their rightful place in a community of free nations.

I thank you for your kind attention!

**I thank you for listening to me!**

God bless you all!