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## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

# PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN SWITZERLAND

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### Statement by Namibia

#### UPR of Finland,

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

23 May 2012

Madame President,

Namibia warmly welcomes H.E. Ms. Heidi Hautala, Minister for International Development of Finland, and her delegation to the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR.

My delegation commends the Government of Finland for its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, including through its successful, exemplary education programmes as well as its policies on gender equality. The Government of Finland has also ratified core international human rights instruments, including CEDAW, ICERD, ICESCR, ICCPR, and CRC, and Namibia recommends that it also advances its efforts to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Peoples with Disabilities.

Madame President,

Although Finland emphasizes the rights of foreigners, immigrants, and asylum-seekers, this group of people continues to experience racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia. Discrimination against the Roma also remains a concern. Namibia therefore recommends that Finland strengthens its measures to protect the rights of these individuals as well as enhance its integration programmes to enforce the

principles of equality and non-discrimination, which are enshrined in its own Constitution.

In conclusion,

Namibia commends the Government of Finland for its commitment to improve the livelihoods of people all over the world through development cooperation, but recommends that development aid must not be tied to conditionalities that do not take into account the traditional values of recipient states.

I thank you Madame President.