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*Statement made by Amb. Sabine Böhlke-Möller, Ambassador/Permanent Representative
UPR of Eritrea, 18th Session of the Human Rights Council
UN HRC Working Group on the UPR, 3 February 2014, 14:30-18:00*

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes H.E. Mr. Tesfamichael Gerahtu and his delegation and wishes to express its appreciation for the insightful and comprehensive report, which testifies the commitment of the Government of the State of Eritrea to the UPR process. My delegation wishes to commend Eritrea for the efforts made thus far towards the finalization of the New Penal Codes that would substitute the Transitional Penal Codes.

My delegation further commends Eritrea on the Water Proclamation No. 16/2010, which underscores the notion that the right to life is inseparably linked with access to basic necessities and services, such as food and water. Namibia is convinced that a country's water resources are the common property of the people who live in it and, that any government must endeavor to, in a balanced and sustainable manner regulate the management thereof.

We further take positively note of Proclamations Nos. 166/2012, 167/2012 and 168/2012, which are predicated on enhancing access to, and the better delivery of justice. However, despite these commendable efforts predicated on effective and transparent governance, my delegation would wish to offer the following recommendation to the Government of Eritrea:

1. Fully cooperate with the Special Rapportuer on Eritrea and respond timeously to the longstanding request to visit the country.
2. Address concerns regarding the promotion and protection of human rights expressed by the Human Rights Council in its resolutions.
3. And finally, that the Government of Eritrea, which is currently operating on pre-Constitutional transitional powers heed the call of the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea, to fully

implement the Constitution without delay, and subsequently hold elections, thereby ensuring further governance in accordance with international principles of the rule of law.

In this regard, it goes without saying that the timeous implementation of the Constitution would further enhance adherence to the Bill of Rights enshrined therein, thereby ending, or better curtailing the alleged systematic violation of fundamental human rights, due to the lack of credible complaints institutions that could uphold these rights.

I thank you Mr. President.