



41

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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

Mr. President,

My delegation warmly welcomes H.E. Mr. Igor Djundev, Director of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and his delegation to the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR.

Namibia positively takes note of the level of cooperation the Government has had with regional and international human rights mechanisms, including through the strengthening of the Inter-Ministerial Human Rights Body, which is now chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and is composed of permanent secretaries and directors of line ministries. The Inter-Ministerial Body is currently reviewing the legislation of the Ombudsman's Office, and Namibia recommends that this Body accelerates the finalization of the necessary amendments to the legislative measures to ensure the accreditation of the Ombudsman's Office with an "A" status in line with Paris Principles.

My delegation takes further note of the progressive establishment of frameworks for the promotion and mainstreaming of gender equality in all sectors, including the new Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, as well as the Strategy and the National Action Plan for Gender Equality. In this regard, my delegation recommends to the Government to consolidate its efforts towards gender equality by establishing a line Ministry fully responsible for this purpose.

Finally, Namibia further recommends to the Government to strengthen efforts to ensure retroactive birth registrations and issuance of documents for children lacking such documentation, as well as to ensure that children lacking identity documents are not be refused access to health, education and other public services, including child allowances.

I thank you Mr. President.

All official correspondence should be addressed to the Head of Mission