

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND
MARINE RESOURCES
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**Briefing on Namibia's Accession to the Agreement on Port State Measures to
Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU)
Fishing**

By

**Hon. Bernhard Esau, MP,
Minister**

April 2017

Hon. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

Hon. Members,

The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was approved by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) Conference at its Thirty-sixth Session on 22 November 2009.

The Agreement was open for signature at the FAO from 22 November 2009 until 21 November 2010. As of last year, 30 countries have come party to the 2009 Agreement which includes two SADC countries; namely Angola and Mozambique that have signed the Agreement during the signature period, while three SADC countries (Seychelles, Mauritius and South Africa) acceded during 2013, 2015 and 2016 respectively.

The Agreement officially entered into force on 5th June 2016.

Namibia has not signed the Agreement when it was open for signature; therefore the alternative way to enable the application thereof is by way of accession in accordance with Article 27 of the Agreement.

This Agreement aims to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the implementation of effective port state measures, and thereby to ensure the

long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems.

Through the implementation of national, regional and international laws and other instruments, as well as the cooperation and exchange of information it will further assist in the control, entry and denial into ports of foreign vessels when required.

The Agreement also serves to prevent illegally caught fish from entering international markets through ports.

According to Article 29.2, the Agreement will enter into force for Namibia thirty (30) days after the date of deposit of the instruments of accession. Accession to the Agreement will not place any financial burden or obligation on the country. Furthermore, the implementation of the Agreement will be done through the normal Ministerial budgetary provisions and the fisheries inspectors will monitor, control and prevent or deny entry into port, when required, by foreign vessels suspected to having been engaged in illegal fishing activities.

In order to achieve effective implementation and enforcement of the Agreement, a high level of cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders will be required. This will be underpinned by initial and regular training/sensitisation programmes involving statutory entities such as the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, The Ministry of Finance (Customs),

the Ministry of Works and Transport, the Namibian Port Authority (NAMPORT) as well as the fishing industry and shipping agents.

Hon. Chairperson,

Hon. Members,

I wish to conclude by saying that, we at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources have been mandated to sustainably manage and conserve aquatic living resources. We thus look forward to implementing the Agreement on Ports State Measures for the benefit of the present and future generations.

Finally, permit me, Hon. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee, to submit the Port State Measures Agreement for consideration and approval.

I thank you!