

**DRAFT RESPONSE TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOTICE OF QUESTION
BY HON. HENNY H. SEIBEB, FOR 5 OCTOBER 2023**

**Honorable President,
Honorable members,**

I rise to respond to questions posed by the Honorable Henny Seibeb regarding the Namibian delegation to the high-level week segment of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly and other high-level events on the sidelines of the General Assembly Session. **This year's high-level week was critical in a sense that there were important events such as the SDG review in which the Ministers who accompanied the President participated and presented the progress made in meeting targets of the SDGs related to their respective Ministries. This also precludes the Summit of the Future which is planned take place next year during the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly. Namibia is co-facilitating the Summit of the Future with Germany and the UN organized a Ministerial Meeting on Summit of the Future during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly to determine the way forward.** Besides, there were a number of the bilateral meetings on the sidelines undertaken by the President and the Honourable Ministers that accompanied him. H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob, has regularly kept the Namibian nation informed of his activities through social network media platforms. Similarly, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation has kept the Namibian public informed of my activities throughout the High Level Week.

Honourable Speaker,

I take this opportunity to reply to the questions posed by the Honourable Seibeb.

On the first question

Could you honestly explain the political, economic, cultural, social, technological, environmental, and legal factors that informed the decision to constitute such a large Namibian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly?

Honourable Seibeb, I should inform you as I have earlier indicated that the delegation, in question, went to the United Nations, for two fold reasons, first, to provide support to H.E. the President, who headed the Namibian delegation to the High-Level week of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and second, to participate in organized events related to the line of work of their respective Ministries.

In this regard, the delegation comprised of different OMA's, with various members of the delegation participating in events corresponding with their respective lines of duty in Namibia.

In my capacity as Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, besides participating in supporting the President during the High Level debate of the 78th UNGA, as I stated earlier, **I participated in the Ministerial Meeting on the Summit of the Future to prepare for the Summit of the Future next year, as you know our Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Neville Gertze is co-facilitating with his German counterpart the preparations for the Summit of the Future. I have also participated in the 47th Annual meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77+China; Annual informal Network of Female Foreign Ministers; the Ministerial Meeting of the likeminded, Commonwealth Foreign Ministers; Women Peace and Security focal Point Network; Joint Non Alignment Movement and G77 Meeting; the Ministerial AU Peace and Security Council; and the High Level Plenary Meeting convened by the President of the General Assembly to commemorate and promote the International day for the total elimination of Nuclear Weapons. In addition, I also convened jointly together with Amani Africa (Think Tank) an engagement with African Group in New York on the New Agenda for Peace on the reform of the Multilateral Systems.** I must say due to intensity of meetings, there are times were I had to delegate fellow Ministers and when occupied with other activities, I had to delegate the Executive Director of MIRCO and Deputy Executive Director Multilateral to represent me.

I also want to give you summary of activities undertaken by the Hon. Ministers who formed part of the Namibian delegation. The Ministry of Health and Social Services (MOHSS), participated in **the High Level Meeting: on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response, the High Level Meeting: Universal Health Coverage, and the High Level Ministerial on the Fight against Tuberculosis.**

While the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform (MAWLR), participated in the **Ministerial Consultation on Funding Arrangements for Responding to**

Loss and Damage, The High Level Panel Campaign on Water Investment for Africa,

The Ministry of Education Arts and Culture and The Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation (MHETI), **met on the margins of the General Assembly with the World Food Programme.**

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME), **partook in a Roundtable discussion on critical minerals and energy transitions, hosted by the Corporate Council on Africa.**

The Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation (MLIREC), participated in the **Global Accelerator: The Global Accelerator on jobs and social protection for just transitions (hosted during the SDG Action Weekend)** Namibia is a pathfinder country since April 2023 and the Minister launched Namibia Roadmap.

The Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources attended the High Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy.

Further, the National Planning Commission (NPC) Director-General, participated in **the SDG Summit Leaders' Dialogue, Ministerial Meeting of the Like-Minded Group of Countries for Middle-Income Countries, as well as the launch of the Africa Sustainable Development Report by the Africa Union Commission.** The Director-General also participated in the Financing for Development as well as the UNAIDS High Level Event Rescuing SDG 10 overcoming inequalities.

While, the Namibia Investment Promotion Board (NIPDB), organized various events aimed at attracting investments into the country.

Additionally, a number of staff, were from Namibian Missions both in Washington DC and New York who provided support to the President and members of his delegation.

On question 2

Can you provide details regarding the total expenses incurred by the Namibian Government on behalf of the taxpayers for the preparations, during the

attendance, and after the conclusion of the United Nations General Assembly in New York?

Honourable Seibeb, regarding the budget, each Ministry has its own budget, which they are responsible for, I am responsible for the delegation that came from the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation. It is the allocation I motivated and defended in this August House. However, the activities I highlighted earlier demonstrated the intensity of engagements and the rationale for participation.

On question 3

Honourable Minister, could you furnish us with a comprehensive list of all members included in the Namibian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly?

I must point out, however, that on the list of the delegation, there are officials listed but who did not travel to New York. The list of Credentials for the delegation is available and I am making it available to you.