



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA-SOUTH AFRICA BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION (BNC) HELD IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA, ON 13 OCTOBER 2023

1. At the invitation of His Excellency **Dr. Hage G. Geingob**, President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency **Mr. Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa**, President of the Republic of South Africa, co-chaired the 3rd Session of the Namibia-South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC), which was held on 13 October 2023, in Windhoek, Namibia.
2. The Bi-National Commission was preceded by a meeting of Ministers on 12 October 2023, and a meeting of Senior Officials from 7-9 March 2023.
3. During the Bi-National Commission, the Heads of State underscored the need to continue nurturing the warm and excellent bilateral relations that subsist between Namibia and South Africa, which are anchored by long-standing historical bonds of solidarity, socio-economic and common cultural heritage.
4. The Heads of State recognised that the BNC takes place at a time when the world is experiencing a deeply concerning escalation of the Middle East conflict and the ongoing carnage and displacement of thousands of people as well as denial of basic services to the needy and vulnerable. The Heads of State called for the urgent cessation of the armed conflict and provision of humanitarian aid as well as medical services to the injured Palestinians. The Heads of State reiterated the call for the full implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions to pave the way for peaceful co-existence between Israel and Palestine within the internationally recognised borders as a durable solution.

5. The Heads of State noted with appreciation the broadening and sustained enhancement of bilateral cooperation between the two countries covering a wide range of sectors including in the Diplomatic, Political, Legal, Social, Economic, Defence and Security. The Heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to continue working closely together to further deepen and consolidate their strategic cooperation and partnership.
6. The Heads of State welcomed the signing of the MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education and Training.
7. The Heads of State directed the relevant Offices, Ministries, Departments and Agencies to continue with the implementation of signed instruments in order to realise their intended objectives, and directed the expeditious conclusion of all outstanding legal and cooperation instruments. They further directed that a Mid-Term Review (MTR) takes place, at Ministerial level, between the Bi-National Commissions to monitor progress made in the implementation of the joint decisions.
8. The Heads of State addressed the Namibia-South Africa Business Forum and Exhibition and welcomed (i) the establishment, by 31 March 2024, of a financing facility to finance industrial and productive development projects and support the development of cross-border value chains between Namibia and South Africa in strategic areas of their respective economies; and, (ii) the establishment, by 31 March 2024, of a Namibia-South Africa Business Council to serve as a Public-Private Sector Platform for coordinated and concerted actions for:
 - a. The promotion of sound bilateral trade, industrial and investment relations between the two countries;
 - b. The development of a cooperative framework and social compact to increase bilateral trade and accelerate the implementation of strategic industrial and infrastructure projects in various sectors of the economy;
 - c. The promotion of constructive public-private sector dialogue that will lead to the implementation of joint actions to address trade and investment barriers between the two countries;
 - d. Sharing experiences and perspectives aimed at improving the environment for doing business in South Africa and Namibia; and

- e. Promotion of regional value chains, including green hydrogen, that can drive industrialization and use of critical minerals for industrialization in the African continent.
9. The Heads of State noted the Government of the Republic of Namibia's appreciation to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the support towards the recurrent drought relief efforts. The Heads of State welcomed the progress made in the implementation and installation of boreholes and the distribution of maize as part of the relief package.
 10. The Heads of State also exchanged views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest and concern to both countries at the regional, continental and multilateral fora.
 11. The Heads of State underscored the profound and increasingly evident impact of climate change as well as the immense strain on natural resources, agriculture, and communities within each country's borders and across the Southern African region and committed to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
 12. The Heads of State acknowledged that investing in renewable energy, green hydrogen, energy efficiency, and other environmentally friendly solutions can boost sustainable economic growth and create jobs. They further stressed the importance of using and promoting all technologies to reduce emissions and promote a fair transition for comprehensive sustainable development.
 13. The Heads of State agreed to intensify cooperation in energy, and in this regard, directed that an Agreement to this effect is speedily concluded to cover new areas of cooperation in green hydrogen, oil and gas as well as electricity.
 14. In this context, the Heads of State urged the international community to honour their commitments to making critical green technologies available, accessible, and affordable for developing countries.
 15. The Heads of State further re-affirmed their commitment towards peaceful resolution of conflicts on the continent in accordance with the African Union Constitutive Act and the United Nations Charter. They further reiterated their full commitment and support towards the speedy

realisation of the African Union's *Silencing of the Guns* initiative. They also expressed their deep commitment to Pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity, through the implementation of Agenda 2063 and its Action Plan to ease the movement of people, goods and services through mechanisms such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

17. The Heads of State welcomed the hosting by South Africa of the next AGOA Forum, and South Africa extended an invitation to Namibian industrialists to exhibit their products at the "Made in Africa" Exhibition that will form part of the AGOA Forum activities.
18. The Heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations Agenda 2030 and reiterated their common view on the need to reform the United Nations Security Council and other multilateral institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions to better represent the interests of the developing countries and to be responsive to the needs and aspiration of global citizens. In this context, the Heads of State agreed to coordinate positions at multilateral level.
19. The Heads of State reaffirmed their solidarity with the people of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and reiterated their long-standing unequivocal call for the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence as per the relevant African Union decisions and United Nations resolutions.
20. His Excellency President Geingob congratulated South Africa for successfully hosting and presiding over the BRICS, BRICS Plus and BRICS Outreach Summit held in Johannesburg, 21-24 August 2023.
21. For his part, His Excellency President Ramaphosa congratulated His Excellency President Geingob for the successful Chairship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, which ended on 17 August 2023.
22. The Heads of State re-affirmed their strong commitment to continue working closely together, with a view to further deepen and broaden the cooperation agenda between the two countries. Their discussions were held in a harmonious and cordial environment, which is characteristic of the long-standing close and friendly relations between the two countries.

23. At the end of the 3rd Session of the Bi-National Commission, His Excellency President Ramaphosa expressed gratitude to His Excellency President Geingob, and to the Government and People of the Republic of Namibia, for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality accorded to him and his delegation.
24. His Excellency President Ramaphosa extended an invitation to His Excellency President Geingob to attend the 4th Session of the Bi-National Commission, to be held in the Republic of South Africa, on a date and venue to be mutually agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Windhoek, Namibia, 13 October 2023