

VNR Country : Namibia

Name : Mahongora Kavihuha

MGoS Affiliation : Workers and Trade Unions Major Group

Organisation : Trade Union Congress of Namibia (TUCNA)

Email : kavihuha@gmail.com

Phone : + 264 81 127 1059

Please use this document to prepare your joint statement on your country.

NOTE: Written statements should not be longer than 300 words (better if 250, as this can be read in the 2-minute intervention, which is the given time limit). The normal reading speed is 120/140 words per minute (depending on the actual character length); statements can be delivered in official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) in the same timeframe

Contributors are encouraged to:

- Analyse the VNR reports - if available already – or main messages submitted by their respective governments and published on the HLPF website and/or
- Compare and draw on respective governments' previous VNR reports and/or
- Take account of all civil society submissions and shadow reports and/or
- Base comments and contribution on national experiences and pertinent issues relevant to the SDGs implementation;

Cross-cutting questions are available [here](#):

STATEMENT (300 words):

The Government of Namibia has made efforts over the last few months for the greater inclusion of stakeholders in the VNR process, however, the country is still lagging in many crucial areas for the implementation of the SDGs. Although poverty levels have been considerably reduced over the last decade, vulnerability is still highly persistent, half of the country's population is in the informal economy, and inequality remains extremely high. Unemployment affects one-third of the population and the youth are especially hard hit. Social protection coverage is weak, and the centralisation of services makes it difficult for the rural and poorest sectors to access benefits. The country's situation has worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have lost their jobs which have affected livelihoods and, government responses have been insufficient to tackle the socio-economic consequences of the crisis.

We call on the Government to put in place a human-centred response to the current crisis with decent employment creation and redistributive policies at the centre, strengthening the social protection system to increase benefits and coverage and, ensure universal access to healthcare. Policies to address climate change need to be adequately implemented and be inclusive of youth, indigenous knowledge, and civil society in the spirit of a Just Transition.

The many challenges that the country faces in the implementation of the SDGs, should be dealt with in an inclusive manner, bringing in all the different sectors of society for sustainable and effective responses. The Government will need to scale up its next NDP to live up to the commitments of the 2030 Agenda

Question:

What is the government's intended action to ensure the inclusivity of all stakeholders in realizing the SDGs and NDP 6, particularly, in their implementation and monitoring processes?

How will it ensure a human-centred response to the COVID-19 crisis?

Consider:

1. What modalities did your government adopt to ensure meaningful participation of rightsholder groups, particularly those most affected by development challenges, in the elaboration of the VNR? What citizen-led engagement strategies have occurred to contribute to the national review process? What plans does your government have to follow-up the presentation of the VNR at national and subnational levels after the HLPF?
2. What are the specific initiatives taken to focus on the populations that are often discriminated against such as women, young persons, Indigenous Peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI people, persons discriminated on work and descent, migrants and refugees, as well as people in fragile and conflict-affected states, among others, including intersectionalities of these? What are the specific actions you are undertaking to reduce identified inequality gaps and what is your plan towards 2030 to eradicate all forms of inequality? What accessibility measures have you considered for addressing challenges that specific groups of population face? How can sustainable development efforts produce new ways to ensure that everyone has access to citizenship?