

MGOS statement on Namibia's VNR at the HLPF

FINAL STATEMENT

Honourable delegates,

On behalf of Namibia's civil society and trade unions, we stand united to emphasise the critical importance of ensuring the participation of social partners and trade unions in such development processes as the national development plan and the voluntary national review to ensure the successful transformation of Namibia into a country that leaves no one behind.

We urge effective measures to mitigate the economic impacts of the ongoing global crises on Namibia, particularly on its most vulnerable populations, including women, youth and those in remote rural areas.

In line with ILO recommendation 202, strengthening and extending social protection, and ensuring universal access to healthcare are crucial. Due to high unemployment, addressing Namibia's slim tax base will enable universal social protection measures, including cash transfers.

A pro-employment and gender-responsive budgeting approach across all fiscal planning processes and inclusive and gender-responsive policies are paramount for development. We must shift from jobless growth to creating decent green jobs and raising wages. It is essential to adopt policies for wage-led growth, make wages commensurate with living conditions and, develop monetary policies that encourage employment creation and enable women and youth to stand independently.

Prioritising social dialogue in the implementation of the SDGs is vital. Establishing a national extended tripartite dialogue and a coordinating task force will align government actions with the SDGs. Each ministry should have a focal point responsible for mainstreaming, monitoring, and reporting on SDG progress and challenges.

We advocate for the inclusion of civil society and trade union actors, especially in the VNR process. Together, through these measures, we can build a Namibia where decent work, social justice, and sustainable development are a reality for all.

Thank you.