



**Statement by**

**Honourable Pohamba Shifeta**

**Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism**

**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT AND NATIONAL STATEMENTS**

**6<sup>th</sup> UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY**

**29 February and 1 March 2024**

**NAIROBI, KENYA**

H.E. Ms. Leila Benali. President of UNEA-6 and Minister of Energy  
Transition and Sustainable Development of Morocco,

Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP,

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and Ministers here present,

Representatives of the United Nations Systems and Specialized  
Agencies,

Representatives of the Regional and Interest Groups,

Representatives of Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental  
Organizations,

Distinguished delegates,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address this esteemed assembly on behalf of the  
Republic of Namibia, recognizing the gravity of the environmental

challenges confronting our planet and the imperative for decisive multilateral action.

Namibia stands at a pivotal moment in history, where the convergence of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution threatens the very fabric of our ecosystems and societies. As we gather here today, we are acutely aware of the urgent need to confront these challenges head-on and chart a course towards a sustainable and resilient future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our nation, nestled in the heart of southern Africa, is no stranger to the profound impacts of environmental degradation. From the scorching sands of the Namib Desert to the pristine wilderness of Etosha National Park, Namibia's natural landscapes bear witness to both the splendor of biodiversity and the fragility of our ecosystems.

Yet, despite our vast natural wealth, Namibia faces formidable obstacles in its quest for environmental sustainability. The specter

of climate change looms large, manifesting in prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events that threaten livelihoods and exacerbate socio-economic disparities. Biodiversity loss, driven by habitat degradation, poaching, and invasive species, poses a grave threat to the integrity of our ecosystems and the survival of countless species.

Pollution, whether from plastic waste or industrial emissions poisoning our water and air, undermines public health, compromises ecosystems, and undermines sustainable development efforts. Namibia have initiated dialogue and conducted consultations with stakeholders, resulting in consensus on plastic products to be banned over the next two years. This progress complements existing interventions, such as the introduction of a single-use plastic bag levy and their use in our national parks. This was done in response to

Drought, intertwined with land degradation and desertification, poses grave challenges across Africa, including loss of life, food insecurity, environmental harm, and economic losses across various sectors. Comprehensive policies and international cooperation are essential for effective drought management and resilience building, particularly in developing countries. Namibia stresses the need for a legally binding UNCCD instrument dedicated to drought to elevate its significance and secure increased financial resources.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the face of these challenges, Namibia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to multilateralism as the cornerstone of our collective response. We recognize that no single nation or entity can tackle the triple planetary crisis alone. It is only through collaborative, inclusive, and decisive multilateral action that we can hope to overcome these challenges and build a sustainable future for generations to come.

Namibia calls upon this august assembly to heed the urgency of the moment and seize the opportunity presented by UNEA-6 to galvanize global action. We must mobilize financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building support to empower vulnerable communities and countries on the front lines of environmental degradation. We must strengthen international cooperation and solidarity, forge partnerships across sectors and borders, and leverage the collective wisdom and innovation of all stakeholders.

Moreover, we must harness the power of science, innovation, and knowledge-sharing to inform evidence-based policies, monitor progress, and identify emerging environmental threats. By integrating the principles of sustainability, equity, and resilience into our decision-making processes, we can forge a path towards a future where humanity and nature thrive in harmony.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, Namibia renews her commitment to working together with like-minded countries, institutions and the global fraternity to tackle the Triple Planetary Crisis facing the world today to ensure resilient and health ecosystems for the current and future generations. Let us rise to the occasion, united in purpose and resolve, to halt biodiversity loss, prevent and stop pollution and confront the growing threat of climate change.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION.