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PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION MEDIA CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN POLICY REVIEW
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We live in a rapidly changing world, with evolving actors and competing national interests. This complex global environment requires that the Government of Namibia be adaptable in order to meet the social and economic aspirations of the Namibian people.

To ensure that we have the right mix of policies and instruments to promote our national interests, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) is undertaking a Foreign Policy Review during a one week Conference to be held from 25 to 29 July 2016. The opening session will be held at Windhoek Country Club Resort on the 25 July 2016, while all other sessions will take place at NIPAM.

Every Foreign Policy is a reflection of the country's history and its aspirations for the future. Namibia's Foreign Policy was crafted against the back drop of our National Liberation Struggle and the end of the Cold War. The policy is guided by Article 96 of the Namibian Constitution that states that in her international relations, Namibia shall endeavour to ensure that it:

- (a) adopts and maintains a policy of non-alignment;
- (b) promotes international co-operation, peace and security;
- (c) creates and maintains just and mutually beneficial relations among nations;
- (d) fosters respect for international law and treaty obligations; and
- (e) encourages the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

These general provisions were elaborated in the White Paper on Foreign Policy and Management of Economic Diplomacy, which was adopted 2004.

Since then, dynamic changes have and continue to take place at the national, regional and international level with fundamental impact on our political, social and economic development. All these changes warrant a review and adjustment of our White Paper on Namibia's Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Management.

It is against this background, that after twelve years of implementation of the White Paper, Cabinet by decision no. 15th/17.11.15/002 decided for a foreign policy review to be undertaken. **As articulated under Harambee Prosperity Plan “we will review our foreign policy with a view to move from the traditional foreign affairs view to international relations and cooperation. In an integrated world there are no foreigners”.. In an integrated world there are no foreigners”**. The foreign policy review conference being held by the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation is therefore in response to this directive.

The aim of this review is to analyze the impact of these global changes on our domestic policies, reflect the new and emerging issues and identify strategic priorities of our foreign policy. This will enable us to maximize the benefits we derive from our international engagements.

The Foreign Policy Review Conference will focus on the eradication of poverty in line with our national development agenda, as outlined in our Vision 2030, NDPs, the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), and complemented by the AU Africa Agenda 2063, and the UN Agenda 2030 on sustainable Development.

This review is an opportunity to reflect on how MIRCOC can continue to effectively serve the interests of the Namibian people, contributing to their security, prosperity and wellbeing, and the promotion of our values, through an active international engagement.

Various National, Regional and International speakers are invited to contribute in the form of presentation of papers that would inform the Foreign Policy outcome document. These consulting papers will provide some context for the review and set out a number of issues for consideration.

The topics of presentation and discussion range from Poverty Eradication, Agriculture, Blue Economy, Trade and Investment, Multilateral and Bilateral Cooperation, Infrastructural Development, Land Reform, Foreign Service, Public Diplomacy, Cultural Diplomacy, Education, Gender and Youth Empowerment. The participants at the conference will include the government, parliament, academia, civil society, bilateral and multilateral partners.

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One of the highlights at the conference therefore is the exhibition on the evolution of the Namibian Foreign Policy. This Exhibition will tell, in pictures, the story of Namibia's engagement with the SADC region, the African continent and the rest of the world since our national liberation struggle hitherto.

The role of Namibia's in SADC election observer missions and AU and UN peacekeeping operations will also be highlighted.

The conference will be opened by His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia.