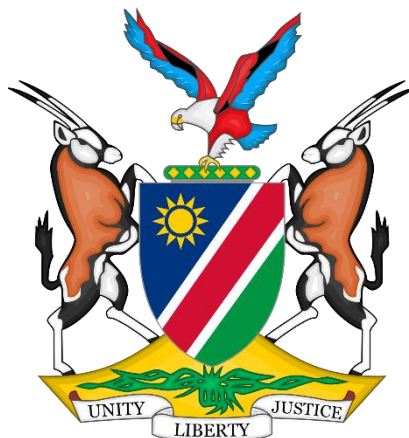


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**TRANSFORMING EDUCATION SUMMIT STATEMENT
NATIONAL STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT
BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

19 SEPTEMBER 2022

Namibia accords greater priority to education as enshrined in our Constitution, with the Education Sector receiving the highest national budget allocation of 24.6 percent during the current financial year 2022/23, and between 20-25 percent allocation, on a 5 year average.

While great strides have been made to ensure equitable and pro-poor access to education-for-all-children in Namibia, the COVID-19 pandemic has regressed the gains made since independence, at 1990. We have seen, based on annual education census data, that 24,961 (3.2 percent) of our children did not return to school in 2020, including 2,348 girls who altogether dropped out as a result of pregnancy, in that year. School going children faced a multitude of difficulties when schools were closed during the peaks of the pandemic for face-to-face teaching and learning. Teachers and learners who lost parents, guardians and family members due to COVID-19 reported psychosocial and mental health challenges during the period. Already before COVID-19, the country was experiencing challenges, termed by the World Bank as the **“learning crisis.”**

The Government of the Republic of Namibia embarked on an extensive and inclusive process of national consultations, on how to address the challenges impacting Namibia’s progress towards

attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. These were held from 29 May to 05 August 2022 and reached approximately 6000 participants, including representatives of the youth, persons with disabilities, corporate entities, community and traditional leaders across Namibia who contributed meaningfully towards transformation of the education system.

Namibia's main commitment is to address the rights of all children to an education that is **equitable, of high quality and that does not neglect any child. An education that strengthens the prevention and response to any form of violence at school and online, enhancing school health and safety** for all.

As the Head of the Namibian House, I therefore commit to focus on five key transformative initiatives and policy actions, namely:

1. Develop a strategy for **innovative financing and domestic resource mobilization.**
2. Institute a **national literacy and numeracy drive.**
3. Ensure access to universal, **inclusive digital technologies,** ICT assistive devices and emerging education technologies, by strengthening collaboration with the private sector and development partners.

4. Transform Education Offices, through organizational development to enhance greater accountability and good governance.

5. Transform pre-service teacher education programmes to respond to the demands of the curriculum in schools.

Our aim is to make our education system more efficient and cost-effective, more resilient to future shocks, more responsive to the psychosocial needs of our children and to demonstrate value for money and returns on investment. We want to deliver education in its totality.

END.