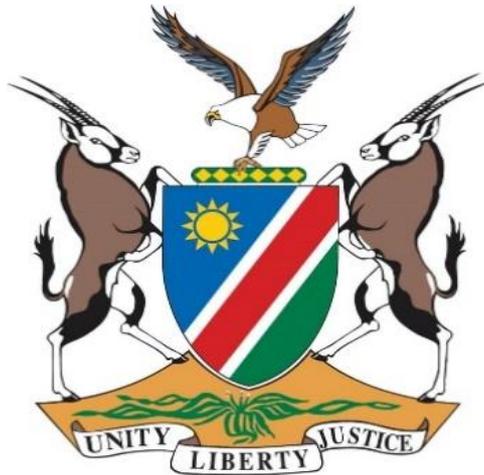


Thursday 19 February 2026, Windhoek, Namibia

Opening remarks by the Honorable Amb. Dr. Kaire Mbuende, Director General of The National Planning Commission, at the occasion of the launch of the UNCTAD report: "Rapid Assessment for Value Addition and Diversification to support Namibia"

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.



**Opening remarks by the Honorable Amb. Dr. Kaire Mbuende,
Director General of The National Planning Commission, at the
occasion of the launch of the UNCTAD report: “Rapid Assessment
for Value Addition and Diversification to support Namibia**

19 February 2026

Movenpick, Windhoek

- Hon. Amb. Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Minister of International Relations and Trade
- Her Excellency, Ana Beatriz Martins, Ambassador of the European Union to Namibia,
- Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD),
- Mr. Noriaki Sadamoto, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in Namibia
- Distinguished Representatives of United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD),
- Senior government officials present
- Esteemed Development Partners,
- Captains of Industry,
- Members of Academia and Civil Society,
- Colleagues from Government,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,
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1. It is both an honour and a privilege to welcome you to this important occasion marking the launch of the UNCTAD report on value addition and diversification in support of Namibia. Today's event represents not only a technical milestone, but a moment of collective reflection on the future we are shaping for our country and its people.

2. Allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for its technical leadership, analytical rigour, and close collaboration with national stakeholders. We also extend our profound gratitude to the Government of Japan for its generous financial support and continued commitment to Namibia's sustainable development and economic transformation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. This report comes at a defining moment in Namibia's development journey. While our country is richly endowed with critical minerals essential to the global energy transition, resource endowment alone does not guarantee prosperity. Sustainable development is achieved when resources are transformed into industries, industries into jobs, and jobs into improved livelihoods for our people.

4. For many Namibians, discussions on mineral value chains and industrial policy may appear abstract. Yet these discussions are about real lives and real opportunities—about young graduates seeking employment, small enterprises aspiring to participate in emerging industries, and communities expecting development to translate into better services and infrastructure.

5. The report provides evidence-based and practical pathways for moving beyond the export of raw commodities toward value addition, industrialisation, and economic diversification. It identifies concrete opportunities, highlights policy and institutional gaps, and offers actionable recommendations aligned with our national development priorities.

6. Importantly, today's launch is not an end in itself, but the beginning of the next phase. The true measure of success will lie in how effectively we translate these recommendations into concrete policies, investments, and partnerships. This process will require coordination, commitment, and shared ownership across all stakeholders.

7. As Government, we remain fully committed to working with development partners, the private sector, academia, and civil society to advance Namibia's industrialisation and diversification agenda. The global clean energy transition presents a historic opportunity, and this report equips us with the strategic clarity to seize it.

8. Let us therefore reaffirm our shared responsibility to ensure that Namibia's natural wealth becomes a foundation for inclusive growth, decent employment, and sustainable development. I encourage all participants to engage actively in the discussions that follow, in a spirit of partnership and shared purpose.

9. Together, we can ensure that Namibia's development story is one of value creation, resilience, and shared prosperity.

I thank you and warmly welcome you all.