



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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Media Statement Issued by: Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Minister of Environment and Tourism

Reiteration of Namibia's Commitment to host the Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The bidding process to host the Green Climate Fund of the UNFCCC gathered recent momentum with the first meeting of the Board of the United Nations Green Climate Fund in Geneva, Switzerland from the 23-25th August 2012.

The 24 board members worked on the modalities of how the Green Climate Fund will operate and will ultimately decide on the country that is to host the Fund.

Namibia, proudly presented its bid to host the Fund to the Board during the meeting in Geneva. We believe Namibia has emerged a serious strong contender to host the Fund in spite of stiff competition from other bidding countries.

As the race to host the Fund's Secretariat intensifies, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has become aware of malicious allegations that Namibia is to withdraw its bid to host the Fund. These allegations are completely unfounded and be rejected in the strongest terms. Therefore the government of the Republic of Namibia hereby reiterates Namibia's steadfast commitment to hosting the Secretariat of the Fund.

Namibia's decision to apply to host the Fund was a conscious, collective

decision of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, and resources have been mobilized accordingly to show that we are prepared, committed to, and capable of hosting the Secretariat. We remain fully convinced and confident that the country is the best placed candidate to host the Fund's Secretariat.

Given that the Fund is mandated to serve the interests of developing countries, it makes logical sense for it to be located in the developing world, where the impact of and vulnerability to climate change is greatest. It has also to be understood that, the long-term goal of the fund is to transform the livelihoods of people by responding to the impacts of climate change in developing countries.

Namibia demonstrates strong leadership and is a role model for other developing countries in the area of climate change and broader environmental management. The finalization of our National Climate Change Policy in 2011 is the latest manifestation of this.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism, with excellent support from partner ministries, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has led a comprehensive and highly successful lobbying campaign to date and Namibia's candidature has been endorsed by SADC and the African Union. We also have the good will and solidarity of almost all developing nations behind us.

Given this strong foundation, we are more determined than ever to pursue this process to its logical conclusion and to bring this prestigious and forward-looking institution to Southern Hemisphere in general, and Namibia in particular the Land of the Brave.