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**Remarks by the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Namibia, Ms. Hopolang Phororo  
Official Release of 2023 Census Main Report  
Windhoek Country Club Resort  
Wednesday, 30 October 2024**

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- **Director of Ceremonies**
- **Your Excellency, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia**
- **Honorable Obeth Kandjoze, Director-General of the National Planning Commission**
- **Mr. Salomo Hei, Board Chairperson of the Namibia Statistics Agency**
- **Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamhata, Chairperson of the Statistics Committee of the Board**
- **Mr. Alex Shimuafeni, The Statistician-General & CEO of the Namibia Statistics Agency**
- **Ms. Otlie Mwazi, The Deputy Statistician-General of the Namibia Statistics Agency**
- **Senior Officials from the Different Ministries**
- **Esteemed participants from the Namibia Statistics Agency, Government, UN colleagues, Academia, Private sector and Civil Society Organizations**
- **Friends from the media,**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Good morning!

It is such a privilege to address you today on behalf of the United Nations in Namibia at this momentous occasion, the official launch of the 2023 Population and Housing Census Main Report. We extend our sincere gratitude for the invitation and acknowledge the collaborative spirit that has paved the way for this significant event. Today, we celebrate the culmination of years of planning and dedicated efforts by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, especially the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), and all partners who contributed to this national endeavor. Congratulations to each one of you!

Distinguished guests.

A census is much more than a mere headcount; it is a comprehensive undertaking that collects a wide range of demographic, economic, housing, and social data to provide a complete picture of a population and its living conditions. It provides a detailed portrait of our society, illuminating the diverse lives and circumstances of individuals across the country. The 2023 Census, with its wealth of data will be instrumental in shaping policies, programmes, strategies, and the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) for Namibia's sustainable development. This invaluable information will guide our path towards achieving and accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Namibia and ensuring that no one is left behind.

We commend the tireless efforts of the enumerators and supervisors, whose commitment to capturing quality and comprehensive information has been unwavering. Your dedication ensures that the 2023 Census data meets the highest international standards, providing a robust foundation for informed decision-making.

This census marks a significant milestone as Namibia embraces digital data collection, aligning with the global shifts towards technological advancement in census methodologies envisioned for the 2020 census round. By embracing technology, the NSA has demonstrated its commitment to innovation and efficiency. The use of tablets and other technological advancements not only streamlines the process, but also enhances data accuracy, facilitates real-time monitoring, and enables efficient data management, ultimately leading to more timely and reliable census results. This digital innovation has positioned Namibia among the frontrunners in leveraging technology for national development.

The United Nations in Namibia is honored to have been a part of this collaborative and transformative journey with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA). Through coordinated efforts by UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNECA, we have collectively provided logistical support, technical expertise, and equipment, reflecting our shared commitment to strengthening national capacities. This joint endeavor aligns with the objectives of the current UN Partnership Framework (UNPAF) under the Governance Pillar and is exemplified by the Joint Programme on Data and Statistics, which demonstrates UN coordinated efforts.

Distinguished guests.

The UN's partnership with Namibia in conducting population and housing censuses spans decades, reflecting our enduring commitment to supporting national development priorities. We applaud the remarkable progress made in strengthening national statistical systems and commend the NSA for its leadership in producing high-quality data that informs policy and action.

As we move into the next phase, which involves the detailed thematic analysis and dissemination of other census products, we recognize the significant undertaking this represents. We are confident that the NSA, with its dedicated team of experts, will ensure efficient processing of this valuable data and make it accessible to all stakeholders, including provision of raw data for research purposes. We encourage experts and researchers from various fields to engage with this rich dataset and generate diverse analytical products that can inform policies and programmes for the betterment of all Namibians. The UN is ready to contribute to this process.

Just last week on UN Day, we signed off the 2025-2029 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Under the results area "*Effective Governance and Public Service Delivery*", we will promote in a complementary manner, the enhancement of the National Statistical System (NSS) and the empowerment of both society and policymakers to utilize data effectively, which is crucial for improving research, public service delivery, and accountability. In addition, by promoting digitalization for better access and use of available data by society, it will contribute to closing the digital connectivity gap, as highlighted in the Global Digital Compact adopted just over a month ago at the Summit of the Future.

In conclusion, the United Nations reiterates its unwavering support to the Government of Namibia in its pursuit of evidence-based decision-making and sustainable development. We believe that the 2023 Population and Housing Census will serve as a catalyst for progress, providing a roadmap for inclusive and equitable development that leaves no one behind.

Let us celebrate this remarkable achievement and work together to translate data into action, transforming the lives of all Namibians.

Thank you for your attention.