



**Republic of Namibia**

**Ministerial Statement**

**By**

**Dr Richard Nchabi Kamwi, MP  
Minister of Health and Social Services**

**On The Occasion of the Launch of the Namibia Country  
Cooperation Strategy with WHO, 2010-2015**

**18 November 2010  
Windhoek**

**P**rogramme Director – Mr. Kahijoro Kahuure, PS - MoHSS

**T**he UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Kari Egge

**T**he WHO Representative to Namibia, Dr Magda Robalo

**T**he Spanish Ambassador to Namibia, Mr Alfonso Barnuevo

**T**he NANASO Executive Director, Mr Michael Mulondo

**Y**our Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Namibia

**M**embers of the Diplomatic Corps and International Organizations

**S**enior Officials from the Ministry of Health and Social Services and other line Ministries

**M**embers of the media

**L**adies and Gentlemen

**I**n a recent media interview, I was telling the journalist that I happen to lead one of the most challenging Ministries. And believe me, that is true.

**L**adies and Gentlemen, health is a challenging and complex sector. Particularly in countries like Namibia, with a disproportionate share of communicable diseases and also experiencing an epidemiological transition with an increasing burden of chronic, non communicable diseases and conditions such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

**A**s you know, health is a central pillar of Namibia's developmental policies and my Government is cognizant of the fact that health is a key determinant of economic growth, labour force productivity and poverty reduction.

**O**ver the past twenty years, we have strived to reduce inequalities in access to health and improve health outcomes. Unfortunately, the adverse effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic have eroded much of our progress. We are also very much aware of the still large unmet health needs of our population, despite the major improvements made to date. This is also due to the fact that most health needs are of a long term recurrent nature.

**Y**our Excellencies,

**L**adies and Gentlemen,

**A**chieving health outcomes requires contributions of multiple sectors including the private sector and depends on the effective support from partners, both local and international. As we gather here today to launch the Namibia Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) with WHO for the period 2010-2015, I am proud to say that we have been enjoying fruitful collaboration with WHO since our independence. As a United Nations technical agency in charge of coordination of global public health efforts, WHO has been instrumental in assisting the Government of Namibia in transitioning from an exclusion based to a Primary Health Care centered system.

**W**e enjoy the policy, strategy and technical support we receive from WHO and the current CCS is a clear testimony of our healthy relationship and collaboration. It defines our vision and areas of future collaboration and provides an opportunity to capitalize on available and emerging synergies.

**M**ost importantly, Ladies and Gentlemen, WHO's support is critical to leverage support from other partners, establish linkages with other sectors and bring Namibia's lessons and experiences to other shores and vice versa. Through WHO, the potential of learning and sharing best health practices within and among countries across the five continents is immense.

Programme Director,

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**N**amibia has also been blessed with great support from other partners, both national and international. As we celebrate our joint successes today, I would like to also take this opportunity to thank all of you most sincerely for all the support that you have lent to my Ministry over the years. Together, we have been able to work in a true partnership spirit, sharing successes and challenges.

**W**e are all working towards the 2015 landmark for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. We are aware of our challenges and of the insufficient progress being made towards some of the MDGs, particularly MDGs 4 and 5.

**T**he MDGs put health squarely at the centre of the national and international development agenda. The Country Cooperation Strategy that we will be launching today is not only a platform for the Ministry of Health and Social Services and WHO collaboration but represents also an opportunity for strengthened collaboration with other UN Agencies, bilateral partners, civil society and the private sector on matters pertaining to health, in particular the achievement of the health related MDGs. This CCS takes us through to 2015, in bringing technical focus to priority diseases, conditions and interventions in our quest for the achievement of the MDGs. It will also help in articulating the necessary advocacy messages and policy decisions that need to be made.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**N**amibia is still faced with stark imbalances between rich and poor, a heritage from our past. With the support of our partners, we have been able to ensure that this gap is reduced and we have recorded notable successes in strengthening the health system; combating priority diseases; improving maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and protecting our citizens from major health threats. We are extremely grateful for your cooperation.

**I** sincerely hope that in a platform of improved coordination and harmonization, we will be able to explore our synergies, nurture our relationships and foster our complementarities, to tackle the many challenges lying ahead.

**P**rogramme Director,

**L**adies and Gentlemen,

**W**ith these remarks, it is now my distinct pleasure to declare the Namibia Country Cooperation Strategy with WHO 2010-2015, together in partnership, for better health outcomes, officially launched.

**I** thank you all for your attention.