



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**REMARKS BY HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP
MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE NAMIBIA - EU TRADE
AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCES**

THURSDAY, 07 NOVEMBER 2024

VENUE: DROOMBOS, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Excellency Ana Beatriz Martins, EU Ambassador to Namibia
Your Excellencies and Representatives from European
Commission and EU Distinguished officials from OMA
Industry Leaders and representatives from Private Sector and
Business Organisations and Associations
Member States
Esteemed Experts
Civil Society Organizations present here today
Members of the Media
Distinguished guests and colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is both a pleasure and an honour to welcome you all to the Namibia - EU Trade and Sustainability Conference. Today, we are gathered with a shared vision of fostering sustainable growth, responsible trade, and enhanced cooperation between Namibia and the European Union. The diversity of participants here from industry experts and government officials to EU Commission representatives and ambassadors demonstrates our collective commitment to addressing global sustainability challenges and seizing the opportunities they present.

Allow me to extend my deepest gratitude to our partners in the European Union, represented by Her Excellency the EU Ambassador to Namibia, Ana Beatriz Martins. Ambassador, thank you for the EU's steadfast support to our partnership and especially through the EPA Support Programme, which

has not only strengthened our economic partnership but has also reinforced our mutual dedication to environmental responsibility, social justice, and inclusive growth within our industry and value chains.

Your presence here underscores the EU's commitment to supporting Namibia as we navigate the evolving landscape of global trade and sustainability standards.

Over the next two days, we will engage in-depth with several key topics on the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (EUCSDDD), and the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

These frameworks are not merely regulatory measures; they represent guiding principles that encourage industries to operate responsibly and sustainably, ensuring that the path to economic growth is aligned with environmental protection and social equity. While these regulations fall mainly upon EU industries, they also enable us to enhance trade relations and engage with European businesses that are subject to these standards. It also offers us a pathway to bolster our global competitiveness, expand market access, and align with global best practices.

Namibia has made significant strides in environmental sustainability, achieving milestones that position us as a leader in climate action both on the African continent and on the global stage. Our commitment to sustainability is not just a matter of policy but a reflection of our national ethos to protect our land, our resources, and our people.

The EU's regulatory frameworks offer significant opportunities for Namibia to strengthen our position in the global economy. The **CBAM** encourages our industries to adopt low-carbon practices, which not only aligns with our low-carbon economy goals but also enhances the appeal of Namibian exports in environmentally-conscious markets.

The **EUCSDDD** reinforces ethical and transparent practices across supply chains, promoting human rights, environmental protection, and fair labour practices within our industries. The **EUDR** supports Namibia's efforts to combat deforestation, helping us protect our ecosystems and maintain market access to the EU by ensuring our forest and agricultural products meet the highest sustainability standards.

This conference is a crucial step on our journey towards sustainable trade and environmental stewardship. Following our discussions, the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade will work closely with our EU partners, industry leaders, and local stakeholders to translate the insights and recommendations gathered here into action. We will focus on aligning with EU standards, investing in skills development, enhancing transparency in supply chains, and ensuring that Namibian industries can demonstrate compliance with international best practices.

In closing, let me reaffirm Namibia's dedication to sustainable development, environmental protection, and social governance. With the support of the EU and the expertise gathered here today, I am confident that we can create a future that strengthens our economy, enhances our global standing, and preserves the natural heritage that defines Namibia.

Thank you for your commitment, and I look forward to our discussions shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for Namibia.

I thank you.