Parliament of Namibia

NAMIBIA COUNTRY REPORT

Submitted in fulfilment of Namibia's Country Report at the 59th SADC PF Plenary Assembly

Monday,

23 November 2026

This report sets out the action taken by the Republic of Namibia towards the signing, ratification, domestication and implementation of the SADC Protocols and decisions identified for the 59th Plenary Assembly. Under Article 63(2)(e) of the Namibian Constitution, the National Assembly agrees to the ratification of international agreements, and under Article 144 international agreements binding upon Namibia form part of the law of Namibia.

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ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE	**1. SADC Protocol on Environmental Management for Sustainable Development** Namibia is a signatory and State Party to the Protocol. The Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) is the primary instrument through which Namibia has given domestic effect to the Protocol. Section 3 of the Act sets out environmental management principles that mirror Article 3 of the Protocol, namely the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, public participation, equitable access to natural resources, biodiversity conservation, environmental assessment, waste minimisation, the polluter-pays principle and the precautionary principle. The Act establishes an environmental impact assessment regime under which listed activities require environmental clearance before they commence. The Environmental Commissioner determines the scope and adequacy of assessments, supported by public consultation and review procedures, while the Sustainable Development Advisory Council contributes to environmental governance. The Act further provides for environmental officers, inspection powers, compliance orders, appeals and criminal sanctions. Biodiversity obligations are implemented through the Nature Conservation Ordinance, the communal conservancy framework and the Forest Act. Namibia's community-based natural resource management model, which promotes local participation in wildlife management, benefit-sharing and sustainable use, has received international recognition.

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	Namibia is improving its waste management and pollution control provisions. The proposed provisions empower the Minister, through regulations, to regulate waste streams including hazardous waste, define the liabilities of waste generators, transporters and disposal operators, and set standards for segregation, transport, licensed disposal facilities and contaminated sites. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism reports that legislative domestication is largely achieved, while implementation is constrained by fragmented environmental governance across several institutions and statutes, limited enforcement and monitoring capacity, the absence of dedicated wetland legislation, and barriers to access to environmental justice for vulnerable communities. Pressure from population growth, agricultural expansion, mining, infrastructure development and illegal wildlife trafficking continues. **2. SADC Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2030)** Namibia implements the Strategy through the National Climate Change Policy, its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, the Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy, Vision 2030 and successive National Development Plans. On adaptation, the updated NDCs set out measures in agriculture, land management, water resources, biodiversity and rural livelihoods. Namibia supports community-based adaptation, drought resilience, land degradation neutrality and ecosystem restoration, and adaptation is increasingly integrated into national

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	development planning. On mitigation, Namibia has committed to renewable energy deployment, carbon sequestration and sustainable land use. Climate change committees, sectoral coordination structures and NDC implementation frameworks coordinate national action. Climate governance in Namibia remains policy-based. There is no comprehensive Climate Change Act, which limits the enforceability of climate commitments. Implementation also depends heavily on external climate finance, and gaps remain in transport decarbonisation, industrial energy efficiency and waste-sector mitigation. **3. SADC Green Economy Strategy (2021)** Vision 2030, the National Development Plans and national climate policies recognise environmental sustainability as a prerequisite for long-term growth. The Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) identifies the circular economy as a pathway to low-carbon development, resource efficiency and employment creation. Renewable energy is the strongest area of alignment. Namibia has invested in solar and wind energy and is developing large-scale Green Hydrogen production through its Green Hydrogen Programme. The conservancy programme and forest management systems treat natural capital as a productive economic asset. The National Solid Waste Management Strategy promotes waste minimisation, recycling and improved disposal standards. The City of Windhoek's Waste Buy-Back Centre in Katutura, established in April 2024 with support from the European Union and the City of Bremen, had by

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	September 2025 attracted approximately 9,587 vendors, recovered more than 90 tonnes of recyclable materials and paid over N$817,000 to participants. A second centre is being established in Okuryangava. Private sector and civil society initiatives, including the Recycle Namibia Forum and electronic waste recovery programmes, complement these efforts. Producer responsibility schemes, recycling incentives and comprehensive waste legislation remain underdeveloped. The Ministry assesses Namibia's overall compliance with the Climate Change Strategy and the Green Economy Strategy as moderately high, strongest at policy level and weaker at legislative level. **4. Revised SADC Protocol on Energy** The SADC Protocol on Energy entered into force on 17 April 1998. The Agreement Amending the Protocol on Energy, adopted in Lilongwe, Malawi, on 18 August 2021, was signed on behalf of Namibia by Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, in August 2025. With ten Member States having signed, the two-thirds threshold was reached and the amended Protocol entered into force in August 2025. Namibia implements the Protocol through the National Energy Policy (2017) and the National Renewable Energy Policy (2017), which promote energy security, access to modern energy services, renewable energy, rural electrification, energy efficiency and regional electricity trade through the Southern African Power Pool. Implementation measures include rural electrification programmes, renewable energy projects, the Solar

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	Revolving Fund and the promotion of Independent Power Producers. The Electricity Control Board and NamPower have been consulted as key implementing stakeholders. To address limited regional transmission interconnection, Namibia is advancing the Angola-Namibia (ANNA) Interconnector, which will give access to approximately 2,000 MW of excess generation capacity in southern Angola and enable power to be traded with other members of the Southern African Power Pool. Outstanding regional challenges include the harmonisation of standards for cross-border electricity trading and the adoption of cost-reflective tariffs.
GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT	**1. Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2016)** Namibia has signed and ratified the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. The Protocol is anchored in Article 10 of the Namibian Constitution, read with Articles 23 and 95, which guarantee equality and freedom from discrimination and provide for affirmative action and the promotion of the welfare of women. Namibia has given effect to the Protocol through the following legislation and policy: • Combating of Rape Amendment Act, 2022 (Act No. 4 of 2022); • Combating of Domestic Violence Amendment Act, 2022 (Act No. 6 of 2022); • Child Care and Protection Act, 2015 (Act No. 3 of 2015);

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	• Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 (Act No. 1 of 2018); • Marriage Act, 2024 (Act No. 14 of 2024); and • the Third National Gender Equality and Equity Policy 2025-2035, which is aligned to the Protocol. Together these instruments provide a comprehensive framework covering legal reform, the elimination of harmful practices, the criminalisation of sexual harassment and child marriage, support services for survivors of gender-based violence and violence against children, and service provider training. The Protocol is popularised through national, regional and constituency gender coordination structures comprising Offices, Ministries and Agencies, Regional Councils, civil society, academia, development partners, faith-based organisations and traditional authorities. Women in politics from different political parties, regional councils and local authorities have been sensitised on its provisions. Namibia has also domesticated the **SADC Model Law on Gender-Based Violence** through the legislation listed above, coordinated through national, regional and constituency GBV and Human Rights Clusters. With regard to the **SADC Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage (2016)**, Section 226 of the Child Care and Protection Act, 2015 prohibits giving a child below 18 years in marriage or engagement, in civil, customary and religious marriages, with penalties of a fine of up to N$50,000, imprisonment of up to ten years, or both. The

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	Marriage Act, 2024 prohibits the issue of a pre-marriage confirmation where an intending spouse is below 18 years (Section 9) and requires marriage officers to verify identity and age before solemnising a marriage (Section 21). The Civil Registration and Identification Act, 2024 (Act No. 13 of 2024) strengthens birth registration and age verification. Namibia hosted a regional workshop in Windhoek on 8 and 9 April 2025 on a monitoring and evaluation dashboard for the domestication of this Model Law. Outstanding matters include the commencement of the Marriage Act, 2024 and the Civil Registration and Identification Act, 2024, whose regulations are being drafted; the absence of a framework to register customary and religious marriages; the finalisation of a national strategy on ending child marriage; the absence of legislated gender quotas; outdated GBV data; and an increase in reported incidents of gender-based violence and violence against children. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare recommends continued advocacy for the amendment of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014), a harmonised GBV information management system, and GBV modules in the forthcoming national Demographic and Health Survey. **2. SADC Declaration on Youth Development and Empowerment (2015)** Namibia implements the Declaration through the National Youth Policy III (2020-2030), which has four pillars: youth education and skills development; youth health and well-being; youth employment and economic empowerment; and youth political and civic participation. Implementation

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	is led by the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture. Results reported include: • 1,411 young people accessed loans under the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme; • 28 Rural Youth Enterprises established under the constituency enterprise programme, creating 132 jobs; • 631 young people trained in biomass production, of whom 274 have been deployed at two government farms with start-up materials for charcoal production; • 103 young people trained in mushroom cultivation, of whom 70 received start-up materials; • 15 youth agricultural cooperatives established and supported to develop bankable business plans; • 950 National Youth Service recruits certified competent in TVET programmes; and • 1,611 young people enrolled in basic skills training at three Youth Skills Training Centres. Implementation is ongoing and partially realised. Challenges persist in youth employment, access to finance, programme coordination, institutional capacity and multi-sectoral monitoring and evaluation.

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HEALTH, SRHR, EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR	**1. SADC Protocol on Health (1999)** Namibia participates in the SADC Committee of Ministers of Health, the Committee of Senior Officials and technical sub-committees, and prioritises the ten areas of the Protocol: HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, reproductive, maternal and child health, health information systems, health research, human resources for health, nutrition and food safety, and disability and health. The Protocol is domesticated through the National Health Act, 2015 (Act No. 2 of 2015), the Public and Environmental Health Act, 2015 (Act No. 1 of 2015) and the Child Care and Protection Act, 2015, and the Mental Health Bill of 2025 has been approved. Supporting policies include the Ministry of Health and Social Services Strategic Plan 2025/26-2029/30 aligned with NDP6, the Universal Health Coverage Policy (2025), the National Digital Health Policy (2026-2036), the Social Contracting Policy for Health Services (2024), the National Action Plan for Health Security and the One Health National Strategy (2024-2028). In 2026 Cabinet approved the establishment of the Namibia Public Health Institute (NAMPHI) for disease surveillance, outbreak response and One Health coordination. The Ministry identifies the sustainability of HIV, TB, malaria and viral hepatitis programmes given declining external funding, harmful alcohol use, gender-based violence, mental health and non-communicable diseases as

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	priorities. The Substance Use Act and the Food Safety Bill and their regulations are to be expedited. With respect to the **SADC Model Law on HIV**, Namibia's HIV Policy of 2007, which predates the 2008 Model Law, together with the National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS Response 2023/24-2027/28, gives effect to its principles; the Policy is under review in 2026. The Government finances over 80 percent of the national HIV response. Approximately 220,000 people live with HIV in Namibia, with national prevalence of 8.5 percent. Namibia has reached 97-98-98 against the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets, and mother-to-child transmission at six weeks stands at 1.96 percent. In 2024 the World Health Organization certified Namibia as being on the Path to Elimination of Vertical Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B. Children remain the principal gap, with 69 percent of children who know their status receiving treatment. **2. SADC Strategy for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2019-2030)** Namibia launched the National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) Strategy 2025/26-2029/30, which aims to reduce maternal mortality from 139 to below 60 per 100,000 live births, neonatal mortality from 24 to below 10, and under-five mortality from 41 to below 25 by 2030. Maternal mortality has declined from approximately 400 per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 139 in 2025. A National Maternal, Newborn, Stillbirth Death Review Committee is

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	in place and electronic birth and death notification has been introduced. The Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 is outdated. The Ministry of Health and Social Services has prioritised a Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill on the 2027/2028 legislative agenda, informed by the revision of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy of 2013. Remaining challenges include intimate partner and sexual violence, harmful social norms and limited survivor services in some communities. **3. SADC Protocol on Employment and Labour (2023)** The Protocol was signed by Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on 17 August 2025 at the 45th Ordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The Office of the Attorney-General confirmed its compatibility with Namibian law, the Tripartite Labour Advisory Council recommended ratification, and Cabinet authorised its tabling in Parliament (Decision No. 14th/12.05.26/003). On 15 October 2026 the Minister of Justice and Labour Relations gave notice in the National Assembly of the motion seeking approval for ratification. The National Assembly is to consider and adopt the motion. The Protocol aligns with Article 9(2) of the Constitution and Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the Labour Act, 2007 (Act No. 11 of 2007), and no immediate legislative amendment is required for ratification. Labour law, occupational safety and health and social protection reforms are ongoing. Challenges include institutional capacity, resources for enforcement,

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	and extending protection and social security to workers in the informal economy.
TRADE, INDUSTRY, FINANCE, INVESTMENT AND FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS	**1. SADC Protocol on Trade (1996)** Namibia signed the Protocol on 24 August 1996 and ratified it on 22 December 1998. It is implemented through the Customs and Excise Act, 1998, the Competition Act, 2003, the National Trade Policy (approved by Cabinet and launched in October 2024), the National Industrial Policy, the Growth at Home Strategy, the National Quality Policy, the National Trade Facilitation Roadmap and the SADC Rules of Origin, with the Namibia Revenue Agency, the Namibia Trade Information Portal and the National Trade Facilitation Committee as key institutions. Under the SADC Free Trade Area, customs duties on qualifying goods have been eliminated. Namibia's exports to Zambia rose from US$190.01 million in 2015 to US$608.24 million in 2024, and to the Democratic Republic of Congo from US$128.36 million to US$212.56 million, while exports to Angola declined. Namibia's score in the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation improved from 35.48 percent in 2015 to 68.82 percent in 2025. An Authorised Economic Operator facility and automated customs systems have been introduced. A 2023 Time Release Study at the Trans-Kalahari Border Post recorded average clearance times of 5 hours 31 minutes for imports and 4 hours 34 minutes for exports, providing a baseline for improvement. The International Trade Management Bill, 2026, which proposes a Namibia International Trade Commission, was

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	introduced in the National Assembly on 6 October 2026. A Competition Bill and a Consumer Protection Bill are at an advanced drafting stage, and a Sustainable Special Economic Zones Bill is targeted for Parliament by the end of 2026. Challenges include non-tariff barriers, border infrastructure, a narrow industrial base, overlapping SACU, SADC and AfCFTA commitments, and the incomplete National Single Window. **2. SADC Protocol on Finance and Investment (2006)** Namibia signed the Protocol on 18 August 2006 and ratified it on 2 March 2010. No single statute domesticates it; its objectives are reflected in the Payment System Management Act, 2003, the Financial Institutions and Markets Act, 2021, the NAMFISA Act, 2021, the Banking Institutions Act and the Bank of Namibia Act, 2020 (Act No. 1 of 2020), which incorporates the principles of the SADC Central Bank Model Law. Domestic clearing and settlement infrastructure (Namclear and NamSwitch) has reduced reliance on external regional infrastructure. Under Annex 2, Namibia participates in the SADC Macroeconomic Peer Review Programme. Namibia peer reviewed Lesotho in 2014/2015 and South Africa in 2022/2023, was reviewed by Angola in 2023/2024 and by Zambia in 2024/2025, and will review Lesotho in 2026/2027. Namibia ratified the SADC Agreement on Assistance in Tax Matters in 2023 and, in August 2026, signed the Agreement on the Operationalisation of the SADC Regional Development Fund. The Public Finance Management Bill is being drafted in line with the **SADC Model Law on Public Financial**

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	Management (2022) and was listed in February 2026 among priority bills for Parliament. The Electronic Transactions Act, 2019 (Act No. 4 of 2019) reflects the SADC model standards on electronic transactions. **3. SADC Protocol on Industry (2019)** Namibia ratified the Protocol in 2021. Eight Member States have ratified it and two further ratifications are required for entry into force, which affects implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap 2015-2063. Namibia anchors the Protocol in the Industrial Policy (2012), the Growth at Home Execution Strategy (2015) and the MSME Policy (2016), is finalising a Mineral Beneficiation Policy and a Special Economic Zones Policy, and is implementing 13 sector strategies in priority areas such as automotive assembly, agro-processing and mineral beneficiation. Constraints include infrastructure gaps, MSME access to finance and global competition. **4. SADC Protocol on the Facilitation of Movement of Persons (2005)** Namibia signed the Protocol on 18 August 2005 and ratified it on 23 July 2019. It is implemented through the Immigration Control Act, 1993 (Act No. 7 of 1993), the Departure from Namibia Regulation Act, 1955, the Civil Registration and Identification Act, 2024 and the Namibia Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act, 1999. Namibia issues machine-readable e-passports, grants bona fide visitors 90 days a year through gratis visitor entry permits, issues border passes with Angola and with Zambia at Impalila Island, and accepts national identity documents for

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	travel with Botswana at the Ngoma, Kasika, Impalila, Mohembo and Trans-Kalahari border posts. Border posts at Noordoewer, Ariamsvlei, Trans-Kalahari, Katima Mulilo and Oshikango operate 24 hours a day, and a One-Stop Border Post has been established at Trans-Kalahari. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security has consolidated the Immigration Control Act and the Departure from Namibia Regulation Act into a draft Bill following public consultations from 20 May to 11 June 2026. The Bill is with the legislative drafters and is on track for tabling in Parliament.
CORRUPTION, PEACE AND SECURITY AND ELECTIONS	**1. SADC Protocol Against Corruption (2001)** Namibia signed the Protocol on 14 August 2001 and ratified it on 27 April 2004. It is domesticated through the Anti-Corruption Act, 2003 (Act No. 8 of 2003), the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 2004, the Financial Intelligence Act, 2012 and the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, under the National Ethics and Anti-Corruption Policy and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2030. The Anti-Corruption Commission conducts awareness, ethics and integrity training and corruption risk assessments across public institutions, and undertakes joint investigations with the Namibian Police Force, the Financial Intelligence Centre, the Namibia Revenue Agency and the Prosecutor-General. Integrity Committees have been established in Offices, Ministries and Agencies and Regional Councils, and an anti-corruption education manual has been developed for Life Skills teachers. The

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	Witness Protection Act, 2017 came into force on 20 October 2023. The Whistleblower Protection Act, 2017 (Act No. 10 of 2017) is not yet operational, and the Commission reports insufficient budget and a shortage of specialist investigators, forensic accountants and digital forensic experts. **2. SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation (2001)** Namibia signed the Protocol on 14 August 2001 and ratified it on 2 December 2002; it entered into force on 2 March 2004. Namibia ratified the SADC Mutual Defence Pact on 11 October 2004. Implementation rests on Article 96 of the Constitution, the Policy on International Relations and Cooperation and the Defence Act, 2002 (Act No. 1 of 2002), Section 32 of which governs deployment outside Namibia. Namibia participates in all meetings of the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee and its sub-structures, engages in the Inter-State Politics and Diplomacy Committee, maintains a unit within the SADC Standby Force, and has participated in every SADC joint military exercise since Exercise Blue Hungwe in 1996, hosting Exercise Blue Kunene in 2017. Namibia contributed to the restoration of peace in northern Mozambique and to stability and security sector reform in the Kingdom of Lesotho, and pays its assessed contributions. A shortage of mediation experts and limited resources for election observation remain constraints. Under the **SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials**, Namibia

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	surrendered 159 firearms and 2,691 rounds in 2023, 187 firearms and 4,443 rounds in 2024, and 86 firearms and 3,171 rounds in 2025 through amnesties. Between 2021 and 2023, 1,568 firearms and 8,789 rounds were destroyed. Namibia has signed the Agreement Amending the Protocol, and the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1996 is being amended to introduce competence testing and the auditing of privately held firearms. **3. Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021)** The Constitution establishes the Electoral Commission of Namibia as an independent electoral management body, and the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014) provides the legal framework for elections, including the requirement that at least two Commissioners are women. Namibia has achieved relatively high levels of women's representation in the National Assembly and Cabinet. Drawing on the 2024 elections, the recommendations of observer missions and the **SADC Model Law on Elections**, the Commission has identified the need for full financial autonomy, a legal framework requiring political parties to ensure gender representation on party lists, stronger regulation of political party funding, a defined period for the announcement of results, the counting of special votes with election-day votes, and the restriction of voters to designated polling stations. These are contained in a Draft Electoral Amendment Bill, which the Commission expects to submit to the Minister of Urban and Rural Development by February 2027. The Commission has also initiated a Voter Satisfaction and Participation Survey.