Mission statement

The Treaty on the European Union confirms the convergence between the interests, values and principles of the Union; Promoting EU values and principles is the European interest.

"The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail."

Today, more than ever, the promotion of human rights, the rule of law, democracy and economic opportunity are seen as the best instruments to bring back peace and stability across the world. The European Union Delegation stands ready to support these values, principles and interests in its daily work in the Republic of Namibia. Europe, currently encompassed by more than 55 million refugees, fully recognises the value of stability. Namibia and generally the region of Southern Africa represent one of the few islands of stability in today's contested world. Therefore the EU's key priority in Namibia is maintaining stability through sustainable and inclusive development. Development is the EU's priority in Namibia.

It should be realised that Namibia's true wealth is not its diamonds, its fish or its cattle. Nor is it in its breathtaking landscapes. The true wealth of Namibia is its people. This is why the European Union will continue to be a key partner in helping Namibia to strengthen her human resources, its people's capacities and capabilities, it is the Namibian people's future.

The European Union therefore is, and will continue to be, present in the two key development areas of: i) education and; ii) rural development of the northern communities.

Education means education for all: education that is both inclusive and of a high quality. The Delegation of the EU will support early childhood development by supporting preschool education, particularly in poorer areas, so that children are better prepared when they start primary education. The quality of teachers in both primary and secondary schools is a key determinant of the future well-being of Namibia's future generations. Namibia needs skilled workers. Vocational and technical training is critical in ensuring that young Namibians have the skills sought by the labour market in Namibia. The EU, together with the Government and other EU Member States, will work hard on improving the quality and relevance of vocational training.

With regard to rural development, EU assistance toward livestock production in the northern communal areas, will help create a favorable environment for the people of the North to get more money for their cattle; in short to sell their cattle for a higher profit. Technical improvements, such as better auctions, more efficient transportation, and improved abattoirs, are much needed. It is not simply a question of technical assistance. Improved livestock production in the North will need the full understanding and involvement of local communities, the support of traditional leaders and all types of farmers. Without this understanding and ownership, effective Namibian behavioral change cannot be introduced.
The European Union is well known for its support to both Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and human rights worldwide. In Namibia we will continue our support to help develop more democratic societies. Nevertheless the EU Delegation’s relationship with CSOs needs to change. We encourage CSOs to become more independent and self-sustaining, rather than relying on international assistance; only then will EU support bring true added value.

Climate change is one of the most tragic global developments. The EU is at the forefront of the global fight to limit increases in global temperature to no more than 2 degrees centigrade. If we do not do so, Namibia will be deeply affected with perennial droughts becoming the norm. Therefore part of the EU’s assistance will be to help gear Namibia’s energy sector to create a more conducive environment that will allow for a better energy mix, including renewables. The EU Delegation will seek to complement EU Member States’ assistance in the sector by providing technical assistance to research, energy regulation and energy efficiency – including a framework for renewables.

The EU understands that the Namibian government is not comfortable with Namibia’s graduation from classic development assistance, as a result of its upper middle income status. However this is not a problem to be solved; it is a challenge to be managed. The EU is present in Namibia to fully assist sustainability and growth potentials for such a unique country amongst African states.

In 2016 Southern African countries and the EU will sign a [series of] Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). Namibia exports more to the EU than she imports from the EU. Despite this, for many years to come Namibia will continue to enjoy both duty-free and quota-free exports to the EU market of over 500 million citizens, while EU imports to Namibia will continue to incur custom duty. The EPAs sensitive asymmetrical arrangement fully takes into account the vulnerabilities of the EU’s trading partners. While customs tariffs on EU imports will be reduced in the long term, they will never be zero. In order to help offset these future reductions in custom tariffs, the EU will increase its technical assistance to Namibian custom and trade authorities and the veterinary services.

The European Union Delegation in Namibia represents both the European Commission and the European External Action Service – European diplomacy – as well as coordinating and complementing the economic, political, commercial, and cultural endeavors of the 28 European Member States. The Delegation can only be successful with the full support of the 28 member states. Whatever the EU Member States agree with the Namibian government, the EU Delegation is here to support and facilitate it.

Namibian ownership is crucial to us: nothing can be achieved without Namibian ownership. The EU Delegation does not have its own projects; there are only Namibian projects funded by the EU. The EU is not here to “teach” Namibians; instead the EU is in constant dialogue with the Namibian President, Government and Parliament, as to fully ensure Namibian ownership of every project funded by the EU.

Prudence and state-of-the-art financial effectiveness is what matters today. The European tax payers are, now more than ever, asking how the EU spends their money across the world. They ask why the EU does not spend all its funds on addressing the crisis in the immediate European neighbourhood. The European Union understands the value of sustainable stability, as a core value in the current
global context. The EU's allocation of more than 68 million Euros to Namibia should be seen as part of the EU's global developmental effort aimed at creating a peaceful and sustainably growing world.

The European Union highly values Namibia's progress and would like to see Namibia take a greater role in all international fora, be it at the UN, the AU, in peace keeping operations, and on climate change. We would like to hear many more Namibians speaking about the unique and positive achievements of Namibia.

Namibia's stability has a very significant value; it should be propagated, maintained, and fully supported. The EU is ready to continue to be one of Namibia's' most important and influential supporters.