

Country Development Cooperation Policy for the Republic of Namibia

September, 2017

1. Purpose of Development Cooperation

The Republic of Namibia (Namibia) has consistently carried out democratic political management since independence from the Republic of South Africa (South Africa) in 1990. The consolidation of democracy is regarded as a role model in Africa.

The country is blessed with abundant mineral resources such as uranium and diamonds, the world's leading fishing grounds, and a mild climate suitable for pastoralism. Moreover, sharing borders with Angola, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa, Namibia has international corridors and acts as gateways to Southern African countries. Namibia is categorized as an upper middle income country (World Bank category) which has high potential among Sub-Saharan Africa countries. In order to utilise such geographical advantages, Namibia participates in the Southern African Customs Union (SACU)¹ and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)² and is promoting regional integration.

On the other hand, it is imperative to diversify the economic and industrial structure that depends on mineral resources, and there are also challenges of resolving the significant disparities between the rich and poor and high unemployment rate. Based on the long-term national plan (Vision 2030), the Namibian government formulated the 5th National Development Plan (2017/18 - 2021/22) (NDP5) as a medium-term development plan in order to realise sustainable and inclusive economic and social development. In addition, the President Geingob's government, which was established in March 2015, launched the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) in 2016/7, towards poverty eradication and prosperity for all to complement NDP5 and Vision 2030. HPP has set focused and targeted approach to achieve high and speedy impact in the defined priority areas within four years until 2020.

Supports for the resolution of these challenges in the country will lead to sustainable and stable economic growth in Namibia and are also important from the viewpoint of regional stability and region-wide development.

2. Basic policy of Japanese Development Cooperation: support for realising sustainable and inclusive economic and social development

Based on the national plans such as Vision 2030 and HPP, Japan aims to contribute to the realisation of sustainable and inclusive economic and social development.

¹ The world's oldest customs union, which has a membership of five countries in Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland).

² The regional economic community, which has a membership of 16 countries of Southern Africa (Angola, Comoros, Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Seychelles, Tanzania, Namibia, South Africa, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Lesotho).

3. Priority Areas

(1) Strengthening of industrial base

Towards a shift to a more resilient economic structure, making full use of Japan's technology and know-how, Japan will support strengthening the industrial base, mainly through technical cooperation, in areas such as the improvement of infrastructure and the business environment. In particular, in view of its geographical advantages of having four international corridors which connect the port of Walvis Bay, a natural, good port, and neighboring countries, also on the basis of the rising expectation to Namibia's contribution to the economic development in the Southern African region, Japan will support Namibia's efforts to enhance its function as a logistics hub in the region. Additionally, Japan will provide assistance to human resources development, including provision of technical trainings and enhancing employability that can support industries in the longer term. By doing that, Japan will contribute to strengthening the foundation of sustainable and stable economic growth.

(2) Contribution to poverty reduction and livelihood improvement

A socially stable development will not be achieved without tackling the social challenges such as poverty and disparity. Therefore, Japan's cooperation will aim at improving livelihood, through agricultural development in the northern regions, where many low-income people live. The support will focus on introducing and extending market-oriented agriculture that is expected to be an effective approach, also on providing related technical cooperation and capacity development support, etc.

4. Points to be considered

- (1) Considering the geographical importance of Namibia, which can be the starting point of international corridors, Japan will support regional development not only for Namibia but also for neighboring countries.
- (2) Japan will also pay attention to the efforts mainly by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan within the framework of the African Clean Cities Platform.

End

Annex: Rolling Plan