

One-Page Summary: Key Recommendations

UPR 4th Cycle – Namibia (February 2026)

Submission by DfSD-ELCRN, supported by the Council of Churches in Namibia

This submission highlights structural human rights challenges in Namibia, particularly in relation to governance, socio-economic rights, social protection, land, housing, and the rights of indigenous minorities. While Namibia has maintained democratic stability, implementation gaps, delayed reforms, and insufficient resourcing continue to undermine the realization of human rights.

Core Recommendations to the Government of Namibia

1. Strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman

- Enact and immediately operationalize the Ombudsman Bill to secure full legal, financial, and administrative independence in line with the Paris Principles.
- Allocate adequate financial and human resources to enable the Office to effectively promote and protect human rights nationwide.

2. Legal Recognition of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

- Amend the Constitution to elevate economic, social, and cultural rights from non-justiciable policy principles to fully enforceable constitutional rights.
- Broaden the Ombudsman's mandate to include protection of economic, social, and cultural rights.
- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights without further delay.

3. Access to Information, Whistle-blower Protection, and Anti-Corruption

- Urgently operationalize the Access to Information Act, 2022 to enhance transparency, accountability, and democratic participation.
- Operationalize the Whistle-blower Protection Act, 2017 to safeguard individuals who expose corruption and maladministration.
- Increase budgetary allocations to the Anti-Corruption Commission to strengthen its investigative and prosecutorial capacity.

4. Poverty, Inequality, and Social Protection

- Allocate sufficient resources to fully implement the Social Protection Policy and close existing coverage gaps.
- Introduce a Basic Income Grant to guarantee a minimum level of income security for all citizens excluded from current social assistance schemes.
- Roll out the Universal Health Coverage Policy Framework with adequate funding, infrastructure, and human resources.

5. Right to Adequate Housing

- Provide sustained and adequate funding for the upgrading of informal settlements as outlined in the National Housing Policy (2023).
- Prioritize housing support for ultra-low- and low-income households to address affordability and security of tenure.

6. Land Reform

- Allocate adequate resources to urgently implement the resolutions of the Second National Land Conference (2018) and the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Ancestral Land Rights.
- Enact the Land Bill without delay and ensure its effective implementation.

7. Rights of Indigenous Minorities

- Ensure that the constitutionally and legally recognized rights of indigenous minorities are realized in practice.
- Allocate adequate resources to programmes addressing discrimination, poverty, and access to healthcare and education among indigenous communities.
- Finalize and implement the White Paper on Indigenous Minorities, ensuring free, prior, and informed consent in all decisions affecting indigenous peoples.