



**STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE REVIEW OF ALGERIA
13TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP
29 MAY 2012**

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Madame President,

The South African delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Algeria, led by the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E Mr. Mourad Medelci. May we also express our delegation's appreciation for the comprehensive report presented by the Minister.

We wish at the outset, to commend Algeria's role in supporting the African liberation struggle over several decades and its continued firm commitment to African solidarity. Furthermore, we wish to congratulate Algeria for the recent elections which took place on 10 May 2012 which also ushered in a new electoral process supervised by judges and representatives of candidates. This reform process, which also includes the amendment of the Political Parties Act amongst others, is especially significant given the ongoing threats of terrorism that the Algerian Government and people have to contend with.

The South African delegation commends Algeria for its cooperation with the Human Rights System as attested to by the reports submitted to Treaty Bodies, and visits of Special Procedures mandates holders of the Council. We have also noted progress in the promotion of gender equality in Algeria and ongoing work in this regard, including the withdrawal of reservations to the CEDAW, progress towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, the improvement of detention facilities such that they are of acceptable international standards and the effective moratorium on the death penalty.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended that Algeria amend its legislation to prohibit and criminalize domestic violence, and to intensify efforts to combat child labour. Has the Government considered these recommendations, and if so, what measures has the Government taken to implement these recommendations.

Cognisant of the ongoing reforms, we recommend that Algeria should continue to work towards achieving gender equality and the attainment of Millennium Development Goals for all Algerians, especially for the rural poor.

We wish Algeria well with its reform processes.

I thank you.