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**STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE REVIEW OF  
BRAZIL**

**13<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

**25 MAY 2012**

*Check against delivery*

Madame President,

We wish to welcome the delegation of Brazil led by Ms Maria do Rosario Nunes, the Human Rights Minister. We appreciate the ongoing strong bilateral relations which exist between our countries.

Brazil's third National Human Rights Programme aims to strengthen social participation by creating new spaces and instruments to foster dialogue and promote monitoring of human rights policies. The treatment of LGBT persons is a challenge for all and it would be informative to learn of Brazil's experience in this regard.

Brazil has one of the largest communities of people of African descent in the Diaspora, an issue that is central in the agenda of the African Union which is currently hosting an African Diaspora Summit in South Africa. We therefore appreciate Brazil's strong engagement during the International Year for people of African descent, and its ongoing role within the Council on matters related to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. This commitment to the anti-racism agenda is also reflected in the Statute of Racial Equality of 2010. Brazil also serves as an example of a good practice in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action through the establishment of a Special Secretariat for the Promotion of Racial Equality.

South Africa would appreciate further information on the policies put in place to promote ethno-racial affirmative action, the need for which was affirmed in the 2010 Statute. South Africa recommends that Brazil continue to prioritise policy aimed at promoting equality and repairing social distortions and disparities.

I thank you.