**STATEMENT PRESENTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANN DELEGATION DURING THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF ECUADOR**

**13TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

**PALAIS DES NATIONS**

**21 MAY 2012**

Madame President,

The South African delegation extends a warm welcome to the Vice President of Ecuador, and the entire delegation. We also thank the delegation for the presentation of their national report.

The South African delegation recognizes the ongoing work to strengthen the promotion and protection of all human rights of the Ecuadorian people, and consequently, the practical enjoyment thereof. We commend in particular, its progress in poverty eradication, and efforts at creating a just and equal society.

Like South Africa, Ecuador has the challenge of eradicating the legacy of past injustices, which take time, and this in regard, would like to encourage the Government to continue efforts to strengthen its institutions of governance, and strengthen in particular, the protection regime of the most vulnerable, including children, people of African descent, indigenous peoples and women.

We recommend that Ecuador should continue its effort at reforming the judicial system; and the rehabilitation of the prison community with a view to reintegration into society. Finally, we recommend strengthening efforts to address trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and sexual violence.