

2



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

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

**INDIA
24 MAY 2012**

Madame President,

The South African delegation extends a warm welcome to the esteemed delegation of India, led by the Attorney-General, Mr. Goolam Vanhavati, and thanks the delegation for a comprehensive report.

South Africa and India share strong historical ties, including the support afforded to South Africa during the anti-Apartheid struggle which has culminated in good bilateral relations between our countries. We also continue to work together through various multilateral fora to promote the development agenda.

It is within this context that we commend India for progress achieved in the practical enjoyment of human rights, particularly in ensuring that people in rural areas have access to the most basic services, including the right to food, education, housing and employment, consistent with the vision of ensuring equity in Indian society, as well as the right to live in dignity in a healthy environment.

Progress has also been registered in the provision of social protection for unorganized employees, as well as against sexual harassment in the workplace. We have also taken positive note of the recognition of both individual and collective rights in India.

Cognizant of the threat of terrorism, which requires consistent monitoring and that the Government is prepared at all times to thwart any planned attacks as alluded to in the report, we are keen to learn more about the strategies and measures put in place to deal with these challenges while also protecting human rights, in addition to the deployment of the military, which could serve as a model for others.

Finally, we recommend that the Government should continue to strengthen its poverty alleviation strategies, as well as its child protection strategies, particularly against the exploitation of children.

I thank you.