

**Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

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**The Human Rights Council  
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review  
Thirteenth Session**

**Review of South Africa**

**Statement by  
Ambassador Hisham Badr  
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations  
and other international organizations in Geneva**

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**(Geneva, 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2012)**

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**Mr. President,**

**I would like to welcome the delegation of South Africa and commend the elaborate presentation it made to the UPR Working Group today. We wish to thank the delegation for the informative and comprehensive report that the delegation has presented, which demonstrates its desire to interact with the international human rights system and reflects its legacy in democratic practice.**

**We have examined with interest what was mentioned in the report since the 1st UPR cycle and we welcome the acceleration by the government of South Africa to implement effectively the existing legislation and programmes and the numerous interventions introduced lately, which have had a positive impact on quality of life of South Africans and the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.**

**We note the challenges faced by South Africa outlined in its national report, specifically on issues related to xenophobia and social cohesion. Our delegation is interested to know if there are any lessons learned in this regard, related to the protection and promotion of human rights.**

**Finally Mr. President, our delegation wishes to recommend that the Government of South Africa continues its efforts in the fields of social cohesion and quality of basic education.**

**I thank you.**