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UPR WORKING GROUP - THIRTEENTH SESSION  
(21 May - 4 June, 2012)

UPR OF SOUTH AFRICA - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE  
31 May 2012; 1430 - 1800 hrs.

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Madam President,

India warmly welcomes H.E. Andries Nel, Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development and his accompanying delegation, to their second Universal Periodic Review. We thank the delegation for the informative presentation. We appreciate the open approach that South Africa has taken in its National Report including the candid acknowledgement of persistent problems and challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

2. We commend South Africa's achievements in the area of health insurance and universal primary education and the significant progress achieved in the areas such as access to basic water supply and in addressing problems related to HIV and AIDS.

3. South Africa has identified key priorities for the Medium Term Strategic Framework period 2009-2014 encompassing education, health, economic growth and creation of decent jobs, fighting corruption and crime, and rural development and land reforms and has reconfigured the Cluster System to coordinate mechanisms designed to implement programmes for

the attainment of these national priorities. These are areas important to many developing countries including that of India. We would appreciate if the delegation could elaborate and share information on how the Cluster System and the work of the recently established Planning Commission are coordinated.

4. We welcome the seminal policies and strategies South Africa has adopted in its endeavour to advance its human rights protection regime including Policy on the Prohibition and Criminalisation of Torture, Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, Draft Cyber Security Policy, Draft Food Security Policy, Green Paper on Land Reforms, Green Paper on Families which are underway.

5. As a multi-ethnic, pluralistic and secular country with a civilizational ethos of tolerance, we understand the complexities of South Africa's ethnic and religious diversities the consequent policy challenges for sustainable development and maintaining social harmony. We remain encouraged by South Africa's efforts in strengthening its democratic fabric based on the principles of equity, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic understanding and tolerance.

Thank you, Madam President.

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