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Statement by Malaysia
Review of South Africa
13th Session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council
21 May – 4 June 2012

Thank you Madam President,

My delegation welcomes the delegation of South Africa led by H.E. _____ and his delegation and we thank the delegation for their detailed and frank presentation.

2. My delegation is encouraged to note the serious efforts undertaken by the South African Government to improve its human rights performance since its first UPR report in 2008, which include, among others, the establishment of a number of government initiatives focuses on the socio-economic needs of the South Africans. We note the commitment made by the South African Government to adopt new laws and policies to further advance its agenda in the promotion and protection of human rights of its people.

3. Malaysia recognises that South Africa faces significant challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, as a result of decades of racial discrimination and other problems during colonial occupations, in particular problems related to poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS, and xenophobia, among others. In this regard, we welcome the launching of South Africa's National Planning Commission in 2010 to further develop its long term strategies for the development and growth of its people and we are convinced of South Africa's commitment to make improvement in those areas.

4. For their consideration, we wish to recommend South Africa to:

4.1. To allocate more financial and other resources to ensure effective implementation of initiatives related to the

advancement of women and gender equality, in particular the 365-day National Plan of Action to end gender violence; and

- 4.2. To seek necessary technical assistance from the OHCHR, other relevant UN agencies and funds with a view to effectively implement its key national priority for 2009-2014 related to health, education, rural development, land reform and food security.

I thank you, Madame President.

GENEVA
31 May 2012