**Check against delivery**

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Frances Rodrigues,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique**

**ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Thank you Madame Chair for giving me the Floor,

**At the outset I would like to express my delegation’s warm welcome to Honourable Andries Nel, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of South Africa, and his delegation to Universal Periodic Review.** I would also like to congratulate him for the able manner in which he introduced the Report.

The Report gives a factual account of the Government to pursue appropriate policies to foster the protection and promotion of Human Rights and individual liberties in a society as diverse as is the South African Republic.

**South Africa has taken bold steps towards the materialization of Constitutional dispositions and International commitments on Human Rights. It has done so through giving responsibilities on the supervision of Human Rights programs to a number of different institutions at the level of central Government.**

**I wish to compliment South Africa for the creation of** new Departments, particularly **the Department of Women, Children & People with Disabilities; the Department of Traditional Affairs, the Department of Basic Education and Higher Education & Training.**

South Africa has also resorted to measures aimed at strengthening the country’s legislation framework and its adjustment to cater increasing demands and requirements related to Human Rights promotion and Protection through preparation and submission of a significant number of bills to the Parliament. Among them I wish to highlight the Bill on the prohibition and criminalization of torture, the Women’s empowerment and Gender Equality Bill, Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Persons Bill and National Health Amendment Bill.

These initiatives, most of them undertaken in the framework of domestication of the International legal Instruments on Human Rights, came on top of important Acts, such as the Child Justice Act, Refugees Amendment Act and Social Assistance Amendment Act.

**Furthermore, the government has defined as its key national priorities, Job creation, Health, Education, Fighting Corruption and Crime, Rural Development, Land reform and Food security.**

**All of these actions brought about an environment conducive to the fulfilment, protection and promotion of the enjoyment of Human Rights entitlements in South Africa.**

Against this Background, Mozambique believes that South Africa will overcome the challenges encountered in the promotion of quality basic education, and on health related Millennium Development Goals (MDG), especially child and maternal mortality rates, HIV/AIDS pandemic.

As a neighbour of South Africa, **Mozambique praises South Africa for its role in the promotion of regional Human rights related Programs, including its efforts in building strong regional partnership, and for introducing regional programs with the relevant United Nations agencies. My delegation also welcomes the establishment of the South Africa Development Agency (SADPA) to intermediate with neighbouring countries in many issues, including development and Human Rights**.

**I would like to encourage South Africa to continue with programs designed to discourage any manifestation of xenophobia.**

I thank you.

Geneva, 31 May 2012