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**Statement made by Pakistan during the review of South Africa
during the 13th session of the UPR Working Group, 31 May 2012, Geneva**

I thank you Madam President

Pakistan welcomes the distinguished members of the South African delegation to their UPR and thanks the honorable for his comprehensive and frank update on the developments in the field of human rights since the first review.

We commend the historic struggle of South Africa for the promotion of the anti-racism agenda internationally, in particular at the United Nations. We note with satisfaction that the South African delegation in the Human Rights Council continues to play an active role in advancing an international response to combat racism and intolerance with the same zeal.

We note with appreciation that the South African Government has introduced a number of structural and institutional reforms during the reporting period with a view to be more responsive, efficient, effective and accountable in its functions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Madam President,

The ongoing efforts of the Government of South Africa to constantly improve the quality of life of its people by adopting pro-development policies and strategies are commendable. The introduction of a food security policy, rural development, labor reforms, universal health insurance are all welcome steps in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights of its citizenry. The report contains a reference to the "Green Paper on Families" aimed at promoting family life and strengthening families. It sounds impressive and we are interested to know more about this.

The report also frankly enlists several challenges and constraints faced by the South African society in the field of human rights. We understand that the historical injustices of colonialism and apartheid continue to contribute towards the marginalization and social exclusion of vulnerable groups. We recommend South Africa to continue its efforts to build an inclusive, diverse and tolerant society.

In conclusion, Madam President, we wish the delegation of South Africa success in their ongoing endeavors to promote and protect human rights.

I thank you.

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