

**WORKING GROUP ON UPR  
- examination of South Africa – May 31, 2012 -**

Madam President,

The delegation of Romania would like to welcome the distinguished delegation of South Africa to Geneva and to thank for the presentation of the national report.

We would like to commend South Africa for the positive elements mentioned in the report, especially for setting out the 12 outcomes for implementation till 2014, as a key national priority, and for the institutional and legislative progresses made with respect to the rights of women and children.

With respect to the recommendations that our delegation made in 2008, we regret that no progress has been made as to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We would therefore like to encourage the authorities of South Africa in pursuing the ratification of these instruments.

We also acknowledged that South Africa still faces a considerable challenge in relation to the maternal and child mortality rate and the prevalence rate of HIV and AIDS. We would recommend that the authorities continue to take measures in order to reduce the rate of mortality due to HIV and AIDS.

Thank you, Madam President.