

STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND ON THE UPR OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

President, Swaziland welcomes the Hon. Minister and his Delegation to the UPR. We recognise and appreciate efforts made and achievements attained by the Government since the last Review.

We note with appreciation the re-configuration of Ministries to better serve and respond to the needs of the population and to effectively address some of the issues and recommendations raised in the last Review. The successful and proactive partnership with the High Commissioner's Office and the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs, aimed at capacitating Civil Servants is highly commendable and is a further attestation of the Government's desire to promote and protect human rights.

President, there is often an expectation for a remarkable improvement in the lives, structures and institutions of a people oppressed by many long years of human rights violation. Swaziland feels it is prudent to first recognize the historical background that pre-empts the new South Africa, and then deal with what we expect this rainbow nation to have achieved.

Sadly and in spite of relentless efforts by the Government to improve the livelihood of its people, we have noted that the very institutions created to ensure equality, fairness, promotion and protection of human rights, sometimes work to disable Elected Officials in the exercise of their duties. Swaziland, therefore, recommends that South Africa should review its institutions, particularly the judiciary to ensure their compatibility with accepted world practice where politicians are given adequate space to govern and fulfil their political mandate.

Thank you President