



**STATEMENT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION DURING THE REVIEW
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA**

13TH SESSION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW WORKING GROUP

22 MAY 2012

Check against delivery

Madame President,

The South African delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Tunisia, and express our delegation's appreciation for the presentation of their national report.

The South African delegation welcomes the many initiatives undertaken by the Government to ensure compliance with your international human rights obligations, including new laws aimed at addressing both institutional and administrative challenges to ensure the practical enjoyment of all human rights by Tunisia's nationals. In this regard, we commend the Government's extensive amendments to its national criminal law provisions to ensure that they are consistent with the Convention against Torture, the withdrawal of reservations on the CEDAW and initiatives to ensure gender equity, amongst others.

The government has also acknowledged challenges in ensuring that its detention facilities meet international standards, that the rights of children are adequately protected, that the enjoyment of the right to freedom of opinion and expression is enjoyed by all without any restrictions, as well as ensuring poverty eradication.

Within this context, South Africa encourages the Government to continue to strengthen initiatives to address complex challenges. We wish Tunisia well with its reform agenda.

I thank you.