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Deputy Permanent Representative



**SOUTH AFRICAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT OF
THE ARGENTINA**

22 OCTOBER 2012

**PALAIS DES NATIONS
AGENDA ITEM 6**

Madame President,

The South Africa welcomes the delegation of Argentina and thanks the delegation for its comprehensive national report. We welcome our cooperation bilaterally in the area of human rights and also through the University of Pretoria. We recognize the progress made in establishing institutional mechanisms and putting in place laws to protect in particular, the rights of Indigenous peoples, children as well as strengthening protection in the area of violence against women:

The challenges of ensuring coherence and collaboration at provincial and national levels are recognized. **We recommend that the Government should continue to ensure that such laws are consistent with international human rights law standards, and their effective implementation.**

The CERD has raised a concern pertaining to persistent discrimination against people of African descent. **We recommend that the Government declares discrimination as an offense in its domestic law, and implement the recommendation of CERD to step up efforts to recognize itself as a multi-ethnic State. South Africa also recommends the inclusion of Afro-Argentines to reflect the historical memory of Afro-Argentinians.** This inclusion has the potential to complement the good work done by Argentina within the Human Rights Council on the right to truth, which South Africa supports fully.

Notwithstanding progress made in promulgating laws aimed at protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples, persistent challenges remain in ensuring the effect consultation and their active participation on issues that affect them. **We recommend that Argentina should expedite the granting of communal land title to indigenous communities, and appropriate compensation considered.**

Finally, we encourage the Government to continue to strengthen its efforts in combating the trafficking of women and children, and to implement mechanisms aimed at ensuring the right to adequate housing, including for migrant workers.

I thank you.