



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

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

23 OCTOBER 2012

PALAIS DES NATIONS

Madame President,

The South African delegation warmly welcomes the delegation of Gabon and thanks the delegation for the presentation of its second national report to the UPR working group. We commend the inclusive and transparent process undertaken in preparing the report just presented.

South Africa welcomes the commitment displayed to international human rights law by the government of Gabon demonstrated by the ratification of instruments such as International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

South Africa further commends the National Human Rights Commission becoming operational in September 2011 and the steps being taken to bring it in line with the Paris Principles. **South Africa recommends that the necessary resources be made available to the National Human Rights Commission to ensure it is able to operate effectively.**

We note the steps taken in the field of education and particularly welcome the development of an education policy that is based on a 10-year agreement (2010–2020). The advancement made in ensuring that primary education is accessible and that school enrollment rates increase is commendable. **South Africa recommends that Gabon continue to engage its development partners like the African Development Bank and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to ensure it meets its aims in the education sector.**

Madame President,

South Africa wishes the Government of Gabon well in implementing the accepted recommendations from todays Working Group session and in achieving its aim of making Gabon a political and social space where its people can build a common future, regardless of their different backgrounds and beliefs, against a background of respect for human rights.

I thank you.